



**MESSIAH**  
lutheran church  
*Sharing the love of Jesus*

**March 2022**

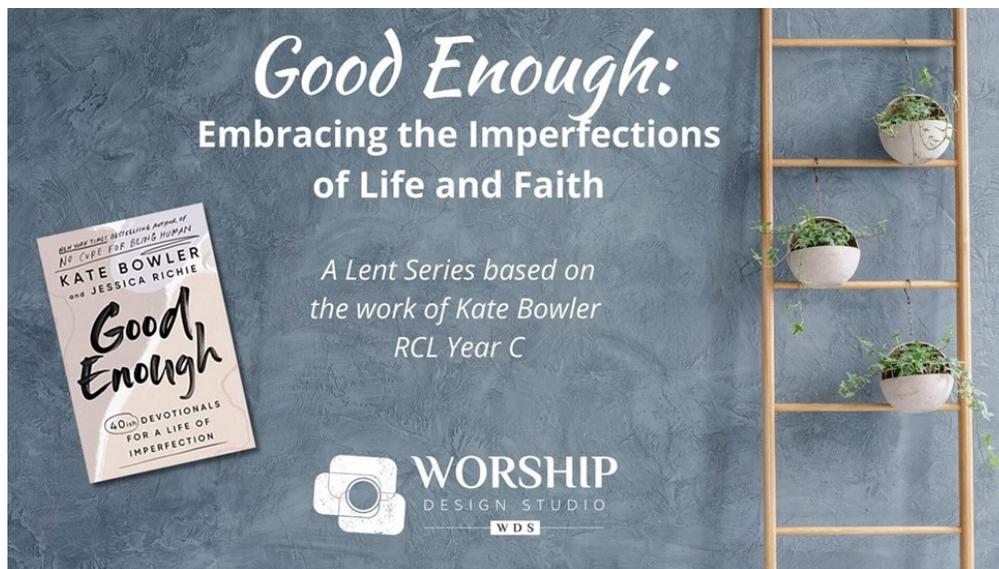
1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

**- A Message from Pastor Trish -**

It's the season of Lent again! Two years ago our season was "rudely interrupted" by a pandemic, and last year...well, to be honest, I don't even remember last year. It's all run together for me. You too? This year – it seems like a slow return to something more normal, but I know it's also a "too slow" return for some of us. We WILL come out on the other side of this pandemic, but in the meantime, it's my hope and prayer that the worship opportunities we have before us in this Lenten season might be helpful for the current state of our hearts. I hope they can be a balm for weary souls. For yours and mine! So....



Here's the theme we will be using beginning with our Ash Wednesday services and continuing throughout the Sundays of Lent. This theme, "Good Enough" is based on a book of the same name by Kate Bowler – it's "40ish devotionals for a life of imperfection." Kate has written a number of previous books, including "Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)" and hosts a podcast by that same name.

She is a church history professor at Duke University, and at age 35 was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, setting her on an entirely new and unexpected journey. Her work is a reflection of her own struggles with trying to understand how we deal with tragedy and difficulty in our culture and also the learnings that have come out of her experiences.

"Good Enough" was just released on February 15, and can now be found at your favorite bookseller. Our worship services will be a reflection of our regular lectionary readings in light of some of Kate's writings. Our themes include "Perfection is impossible, transformation isn't" on Ash Wednesday, followed by: 1. Ordinary lives can be holy, 2. So much is out of our control, 3. Lots of things can be good medicine, 4. We often believe we are the problem, and 5. We are fragile. (Stay tuned, we might be following this theme throughout Holy Week as well.) Our liturgy will also include prayers and a thanksgiving at the table that reflect this theme.

If you're still reading, intrigued by the theme, and thinking you might want to spend some time with this book as an option for your own Lenten discipline, I've got you covered! We will make available a handout for suggestions on which individual devotion to read for each day in Lenten as you follow our worship themes. You can also download a journal to use along with your devotions at <https://katebowler.com/lent/>. And finally, if a few of you would like to try a small group study during this season (in person? On-line? Hybrid?) just let me know....I've got a study guide available for that as well, that we can begin at any time. But wait! That's not all! (Aren't those the words of a true "huckster" of some kind?) We also have our Midweek Lenten Services to look forward to! I'll cover THAT theme and opportunity elsewhere in this newsletter, so keep reading!



Midweek Lenten services for 2022 – we are happy to announce we’ve resurrected the community “round robin” of preaching, giving you an opportunity to hear different perspectives and voices clustered around our theme of “Sabbath” this season.

The “Sabbath” theme was the theme for the Fall Theological Conference – an annual continuing education activity all rostered leaders in the synod are required to attend. When local clergy gathered to talk about the possibility of collaborating on a Lenten theme for midweek services, we quickly agreed that many of the things we heard and learned were good things to share with our congregations. We know of course, that to “remember the Sabbath and keep it holy” is one of the Ten Commandments, but did you know it was the longest - that it needed the most words of explanation? Check out Exodus 20:8-11 and see/read for yourself. This commandment provides the “hinge” between the commandments that are concerned with our relationship with God and the commandments that are concerned with our relationship with our neighbor. We often think about this commandment as a personal injunction for us but a closer look reveals its communal nature. Sabbath isn’t for some of us, but for all of us. Each week we will explore with you some of the themes that we learned from our teacher, Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio from the Chandler School of Theology at Emory University. Here’s the schedule for Messiah:

March 9 - Sabbath offers us a whole-hearted life (Pastor Trish)

March 16 – Sabbath turns us toward healthy community (Pastor Jay Dahlving, Bethlehem)

March 23 – Sabbath offers us the holiness of time (Pastor John Odegaard, Grace)

March 30– Sabbath connects us to our created selves (Pastor Janet Adams, Trinity - Madelia)

April 6 – Sabbath releases us from our anxieties (Vicar David Reedstrom, Calvary - Rapidan)

Join us each week. Come for a soup supper at 5:30 and stay for a short worship service beginning at 6 PM. Enjoy the new and familiar voices of area pastors, and be prepared to learn something new and gain a new perspective on the importance of Sabbath for all of us.

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## Lenten Wednesday Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to provide cookies for the Wednesday evening meals during lent. Please click on the link below or call the office if interested in signing up for a week. <https://signup.com/go/SrGSfqT> Lenten soup supper’s begin Wednesday, March 2nd on Ash Wednesday.

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## Pulpit Switch with Deacon Billie Jo Wicks —Sunday, March 20th

Deacon Billie Jo Wicks and I will be doing another “pulpit switch” on Sunday, March 20. A reminder this is part of her internship learning at St. Paul’s - Meriden and Zion- Ellendale, and my involvement as her off-site supervisor. Billie Jo and I are sharing the same Lenten theme, so expect to hear her preaching on the “Good Enough” theme that day as well. Then, on March 21st and 22nd I will be participating in an “Internship Cluster Retreat” with her as well.



This year we will be having all Holy Week worships in person and on Facebook Live.

**Sunday, April 10th—Palm Sunday** > Worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

with 1st Communion being celebrated at both

**Thursday, April 14th—Maundy Thursday** > Worship at 6:00 pm

**Friday, April 15th—Good Friday** > Worship at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, April 17th—Easter Sunday** > Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 (no Sunday School)

## March Food Drive for ECHO FOOD SHELF

As in the past, Messiah is supporting **Minnesota Food Share** with your dollars and food. Monetary and food donations will be given to ECHO during the month of March and will be eligible for matching funds!

Bring donations of food to church for our March  
for our March Food drive



or

**CONSIDER MAKING A CASH DONATION**

Financial donations go further due to access to food banks and discount purchasing programs, allowing food shelves to purchase items most needed in their community. Simply put March Food Drive in the memo portion of your check and drop it off or mail it to Messiah.

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## Middle School Ministry Fundraiser FOCP (Backpack Program)

MSM student jar sales and Climb-and-Slide fundraiser was a great success and raised a grand total of \$2197.00 in jar sales and donations directly in support the FOCP Backpack Program. Thank you Messiah for making this such a success!



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## Anti-Racism Team

The Anti-Racism Team will meet again on Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 pm for conversation and sharing. They will not meet in April. Starting in May (Thursday, May 12th at 6:30 pm) they will begin to study the ELCA Declaration for People of African Descent. "Now Is The Time." More information is available below: It will also be a good time for those who might be interested in the work of this team to join them in this study.

### ELCA Introduces "Now Is the Time" Study Guide

1/19/2022 2:25:00 PM

CHICAGO (Jan. 19, 2022) — The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America introduces "Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent" to help congregations wrestle with the meaning of the declaration, adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, and its accompanying explanation.

In the declaration, the ELCA "apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. We lament the white church's failure to work for the abolition of slavery and the perpetuation of racism in this church."

"Now Is the Time" stresses realism, self-examination and accountability as the church acknowledges and apologizes for the history and impact of slavery and systemic racism. The study guide focuses on deepening our understanding of this history as participants engage in often-difficult conversation and reflection to move the church toward racial healing and justice.

The five-part study resource, with a guide and participant materials, is available at [elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice](https://elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice).

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## North Mankato Fun Days

We are excited to share that the 2022 Fun Days has been scheduled for July 6-10. Messiah will once again have the Pie & Brat Stand. Look for more information and volunteer opportunities in the coming months.

## Crossroads Lunch for a Buck and The REACH

**Crossroads Campus Ministry Lunch for A Buck** is for students of all backgrounds and beliefs who need food to sustain them through challenging times. **The REACH Resource Center** supports youth who are at-risk, experiencing homelessness or have run away. Messiah is looking for volunteers for both of these programs. We'll make food for both Crossroads and The REACH at the same time. Volunteer opportunities include making food, delivering, serving, and donating money for food.

Sign up to prepare meals on Monday, March 21st or deliver and/or serve meals on Tuesday, March 22nd—  
<https://signup.com/go/PtXPciW> You can also call the church office to sign up.

If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a monetary donation to purchase the food.

Looking ahead we will also serve on Tuesday, April 19th.

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### 10:30 am Worship Opportunity

Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon for assisting with 10:30 livestream. We now have a volunteer to do Facebook Live but still looking for more to fill in other weeks (that's right! You don't have to commit to every week – you decide based on your availability). Anyone who knows or is interested in learning how can sign up. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours. We will add this option to our worship plan on a week-by-week basis depending on availability each week. **Please note** that we will continue to stream the 8:30 am worship each week.

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### Quilting 2022

Quilting will continue to meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of through March and April. The quilts are displayed on Mother's Day and the Sunday following and then distributed where needed .

**New faces are always welcome whether you sew or not.** There are several phases to finishing a quilt and all are fun to do and can be learned in minutes and lunch is included. Come join our group!

Any questions, call Nancy 340-8494, Joan 389-9898, Kay 327-9789.

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# BLOOD DRIVE

### Monday, April 4, 2022 from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Great News! We were able to get a new date scheduled for the blood drive.

Sign up at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Code: MESSIAHKATOMN

Maximize your blood donation & help more patients. 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.

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### 50th Anniversary Celebration

We have set the date to celebrate Messiah's 50th Anniversary—Sunday, July 31st. On this day, we will gather for Messiah Worshipers United, enjoy great music, a meal and look back on 50 years of spiritual growth and fellowship; Bishop's Assistant, Matt Larson, from the SE MN Synod will also join us. We've already had 2 planning meetings and plans are under way for the celebration. We're inviting all of Messiah's former pastors and if you know of other people who have been a part of Messiah's history, be sure to let them know when the celebration is. And please put your thinking caps on because we'd like to gather Messiah stories – more on that in the April Newsletter.

## Youth Activities

### 4th Graders First Communion Retreat

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, March 12, 2022**. On **Sunday, March 13th**, students will want to be sure to come to Sunday School to paint their communion cups. If you have a family member, 4th grade or older, who didn't get a chance to participate in a retreat previously, they are welcome to come. Contact the office to register ASAP. First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, April 10th.

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### 8th Grade Retreat—March 6th

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 6th from 12-5 pm here at Messiah. This annual retreat is in preparation for their Affirmation of Baptism service. Work includes exploration of the baptismal promises that were originally made on their behalf as well as a life map. Please keep them in your prayers.

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### VBS Day Camp—June 20th-23rd

Update from last month ... it was -13 degrees then but it's 26 degrees now! A sure sign that summer will indeed be here before long and planning for summer fun well under way. VBS Day Camp will again be combined, with the host church being Christ the King and led by the Green Lake Bible Camp staff. Children aged Kindergarten to those completing 5th grade in 2022 can register for \$40. To start the camp experience, a Sunday family fun night, including dinner will be held. Monday—Thursday the kids will have a great time from 9 am—3pm. We will start with registering 40 children. Contact Trish or the office for scholarship and Pre-K availability. Registration opens March 1st.

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### Sun & Service—July 5-7, 2022



Attention kids going into 6th grade through completion of 9th grade! There's summer fun planned for you too. This year we are combining Wacky Doodle and Mission Mankato into a 3-day event. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

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### National Youth Gathering Update

The planned National Youth Gathering was canceled but a great new opportunity for the high school youth was scheduled. Nine youth will be at Camp Amnicon in Wisconsin from July 24—29 and go on the Flambeau River Ramble—a canoe and camping adventure. NOTE: We do have 1 spot available for any 8-12 grader that wants to join us.

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### Summer Camp at Green Lake

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has opened camp registration for Summer 2022. There are camp opportunities for 1st-12th grade students, as well as family camps. GLLM has introduced some changes to how camp will be run so take careful note of starting and ending days. Messiah discount code is LAUNCH2022. Head to their website to see more details or get registered! [www.gllm.org/summer-camp](http://www.gllm.org/summer-camp)



### Youth Spring Calendar

March 6th—8th Grade Retreat at Messiah  
March 12th—1st Communion Retreat  
March 13th—4th Grade Paint Cups @ Sunday School  
March 27th—No Sunday School  
April 3rd—Sunday School Family Day

April 10th—1st Communion (also Palm Sunday)  
April 13th—Last day of MSM and HS Youth Group  
April 17th—No Sunday School (also Easter Sunday)  
April 24th—Confirmation at 10:30 am Worship  
May 15th—Last day of Sunday School

## February Council Meeting Highlights

The council approved the January financials—our total income was \$40,329 and expenses were \$27,240 resulting in income over expenses \$13,089. Year-to-date income is over expenses by \$2917.

At the annual meeting in January, the new council members were elected.

The current council members are: President – Renee Guyer;

VP – Kim Henrickson; Secretary – Sonja Parr; Treasurer – Jean Zandstra;

At-Large – Chuck Rafferty, Jim Jilek, and Heather VonBank; Past President – Jerry Crest.



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## Messiah Scholarship Fund

In 2021, Messiah developed a scholarship fund for members of the congregation attending post-secondary education. For more information about the process and dates, please contact the office.

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## Thank You from Janet Adams

Dear Friends in Christ,

I give thanks and praise to God for bringing us together almost three years ago. Thank you for making my ordination day a wonderful celebration!

- to Amy and Jan for helping create the announcement and bulletins.
- to Pastor Reedstrom for preaching and leading us in worship.
- to Steve Reedstrom for all his technical skill with the camera, sound, and Facebook Live.
- to the Thursday morning men's Bible Study group for serving as ushers.
- to Barb Sorensen for the gift of music.
- to Chris Terpstra for the behind the scenes work of moving tables and chairs.
- to Sandy Dahms and her crew for decorating and providing a fantastic meal and reception after the service.
- to all who attended the service in person or on-line, and for your gifts of support, cards, and well-wishes!

As I walked in before the service, I realized how much I miss the beautiful stain-glass windows that surround the worship space, and the opportunity to worship in that space with all of you. Thank you for the fond memories, and may God continue to guide and lead you in your ministry in North Mankato and the world.

+Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Janet Adams

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## The Generosity of the Messiah Family Does Not Go Unnoticed

Messiah,

We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all that purchased Christmas gifts for the residents here at Pathstone. Although it may not have seemed that grand in the moment—we cannot express enough gratitude for the joy it brought the residents.

From all of us @ Ecumen Pathstone

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## COVID-19 Update

The Stay Safe Committee has had opportunity to review recent practice changes in the community (including MAPS), CDC recommendations, and current data. The committee also recognizes that over the last 24 months, members of our community have developed a variety of different comfort levels when it comes to our own individual tolerance for risk and safety. With that in mind, we enter a phase where individuals are encouraged to make a decision for indoor masking or not masking that is best suited to their individual needs and preferences, vaccination status, etc. At the same time, as community leaders we continue to encourage following CDC guidelines and the guidelines set forth by the local school district: masks are recommended by not required. We also give thanks for the continued mutual respect we have shown for one another's decisions during these difficult times.

The Stay Safe Committee will continue to meet as the situation changes or requires, and new recommendations will be offered if/when the pandemic changes course. In other words, stay tuned for further updates!

# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:30 pm NO Staff Meeting 9:30 am Quilting Group (snow day make-up)	<b>2</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>3</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows Worship 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pastor Trish is gone through March 1st on vacation.</b>						
<b>6 Communion</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b> 12:00 pm 8th Grade Retreat	<b>7</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 9:30 am Quilting Group	<b>9 LENT</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth	<b>10</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Anti-Racism Group	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am—12:30 pm 1st Communion Retreat
<b>13 Communion</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b> 11:30 am Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm LLL Board Mtg 6:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>15</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>16 LENT</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth	<b>17</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Communion AND Pulpit Switch w/ Deacon Billie Jo Wicks</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b> 1:00 pm "Council as Leaders" Training Event for Council @ Trinity in Owatonna	<b>21</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Make food for Crossroads and REACH	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Quilting Group 10:45 am Deliver and serve food to Crossroads 11:45 am Deliver REACH 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Life Long Learners	<b>23 LENT</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth	<b>24</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Communion</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b> 3:00 pm <b>Girl Scout Meeting</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>29</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>30 LENT</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth	<b>31</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>You are welcome to join a bible study anytime!</b>	



Messiah Lutheran Church  
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 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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**NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Trish Reedstrom, Pastor: *PastorTrish@MessiahNorthMankato.com*  
 Jan Waller, Office Manager: *Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com*  
 Amy Malvin, Communications & Education: *Amy@MessiahNorthMankato.com*

Label 1

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

*Please Pray For ...*

**In our thoughts and prayers:** Ben K, Craig V, Dave C, Earl W, Judy F, Rosie L, Nancy O, Dick, Milt H, Dolores S, Sharen O, Jason M, Dan and family, Jim M, Jessica R, Millie, Darold, Ellie, Arthur, Suzanne, Tom, Jerry, Pam, Morgan

**Those who serve our country:** Dan P, Derek M, Carley, Alex.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Kimberly & Dayle Moore on the death of Kimberly’s mother, Karla Wuerzberger.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Jana Cornish on the death of her sister, Marlyss Brekke.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Cindy and Rick Westmark on the death of Cindy’s brother, Richard.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Marsha and Scott Madigan on the death of her sister, Carolyn Hill.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Renee, Greg and Timothy Guyer on the death of Renee’s grandmother, Maxine Watkins.



**Worship Schedule**

**Sunday**  
 8:30 am—Traditional Worship  
 9:15 am—Sunday School  
 10:30 am—Contemporary Music

**Wednesday’s during Lent**  
 5:30 pm—Soup Dinner  
 6:00 pm—Worship

**March Worship Participants**

<u>March</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
3/6	<b>Usher:</b> Ron Leiferman	Bob Rothenbuehler
	<b>Reader:</b> Sarah Suskovic	Lisa Benson
3/13	<b>Usher:</b> Les Altenburg	Jon Graff
	<b>Reader:</b> Mike Hanson	Shirley Rosenau
3/20	<b>Usher:</b> Kyle Vogt	Jon & Jeran Karau
	<b>Reader:</b> Chuck Dulas	April Rosendale
3/27	<b>Usher:</b> Steve Jones	Karla Elmore
	<b>Reader:</b> Linda Wenkel	Jeff Pribyl