



January 2023

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

Who is our neighbor? How do we care for our neighbor?

I've been thinking about our recent winter weather, and the importance of neighbors this time of year. Neighbors help clear each other's driveways or bring in the mail or take out the garbage for someone for whom an icy driveway can be treacherous. If you run out of milk or sugar and can't get to the store – a neighbor will help. Neighbors invite one another over for a meal or companionship when Christmas plans get cancelled or postponed.

It's not just during winter weather, of course. Neighbors take neighbors to appointments or volunteer to watch the kids. They share recipes, campfires, power tools. Neighbors also plow streets, teach children, work in health care facilities, walk ditches, serve on councils and boards. There are countless ways to be good neighbors, and that's important, because the Bible is clear we are to care for our neighbor. Leviticus 19:18 records it as part of the instructions received on Mount Sinai. Jesus says it in Mark 12:31, and in Matthew and in Luke. Paul reminds us again in letters to the Romans and Galatians. In other words – it's important stuff to care for and love our neighbor.

Do you also remember what the Bible tells us about who is our neighbor? The story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 reminds us regularly that anyone can be our neighbor – near and far, known and unknown.

As we begin 2023 we will have many opportunities to care for neighbors in visible and tangible ways. At our annual meeting on January 29th we will decide where to direct our benevolence dollars in the coming year. There will be more opportunities to serve a meal to hungry college students and clients using the homeless shelter. We will be collecting items for some of the non-profits in town that take direct aim at serving the neighbor – Connections, Partners for Housing, A Fresh Start, Echo and Campus Cupboard.

We will also continue to care for one another – sending cards, offering a meal, sharing a hug, helping chaperone youth activities, teaching SS....that list is also long.

Finally, we have an opportunity to care for our newest neighbors in the community – Ariac and Andrea and their two boys who have journeyed here as legal asylum seekers. We, along with other ELCA churches in the community, have said we will help them during this process, and we are just beginning to understand what that help will look like. But like all of our other ways to love the neighbor – there will be various ways to help them: financially, assistance with keeping all the rules, befriending them, connecting them.

Sometimes we help our neighbor, and sometimes we receive the help for ourselves. Being neighborly is often a reciprocal action, but it is definitely a command given to us by the grace of God: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matt. 22:37-39)

New Member Orientation

Orientation for those interested in becoming members or associate* members of Messiah is scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd at 4:30 pm. Plan on an approximately 90 minute meeting where we will share supper, get to know one another, and learn more about the congregation of Messiah and the ELCA tradition.

New members will be received into membership at our Messiah Worship United Service on Sunday, January 29th at 10:00 am. Want to join, but can't make the orientation? Talk to Pastor Trish.

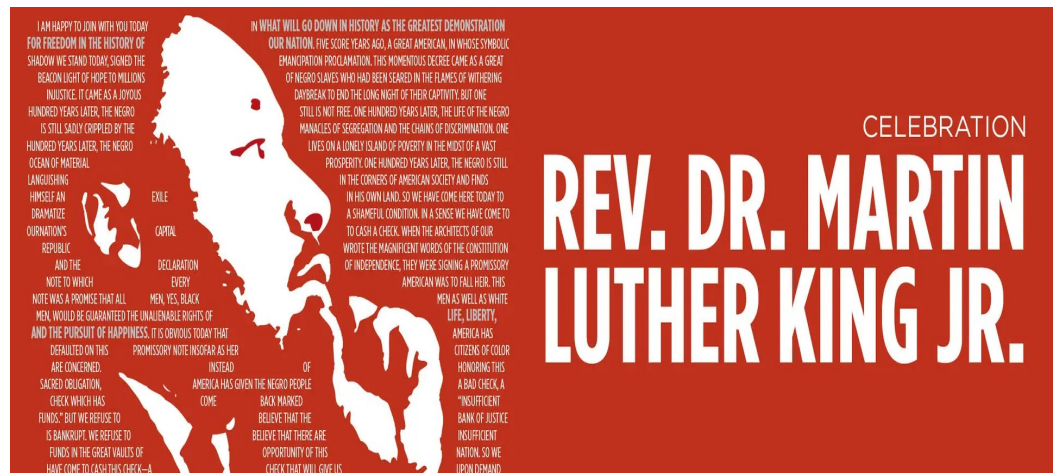
**Associate members keep their membership in a home congregation but seek to involve themselves in the life of Messiah. They take part in all aspects of the faith community with the exception of holding an elected office.*

Conversation with Justice Alan Page at Gustavus Adolphus College

You are invited to attend the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration
on Monday, January 16, 2023 at Christ Chapel from 10:00-11:20 am.

The annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Celebration emphasizes the continuing struggle for civil rights in the United States and around the world. This year, Gustavus is honored to be joined by Justice Alan Page, the first African American Supreme Court Justice of Minnesota. As a justice of 23 years, as well as a Hall of Fame college and NFL football player, Page is well versed in the realities of racism in the worlds of athletics and the judicial system. For more information about all events or to watch the livestream of the morning discussion, [visit the MLK site](#). Questions may be submitted in advance at the MLK event website.

Messiah members might be especially interested in hearing Justice Page speak at GAC since we have now made two donations to the Page Education Foundation as part of the special offerings we have had for scholarships for young people in and outside the walls of Messiah. Justice Page started that foundation in 1988, along with his wife Diane.



Monday, January 23, 2023 from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

BLOOD DRIVE

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Monday, January 23rd. There are appointment openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

Sign up at: 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.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11:00 am

Join us for the annual meeting after the 10:00 am Messiah Worship United service. A light lunch will be served. We will hear team reports from 2022 and discuss the budget and plans for 2023.

Quilting

Mark your calendars! Quilting begins in January. It is always great coming back together to resume our work and fellowship once again. **Starting January 10th**, we meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of January, February, March and April from 9:30 am—3:00 pm. 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 Lynn Klaber 387-6172.

Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Messiah has committed to volunteer as a congregation for the following organizations. Opportunities exist to make part of a meal or serve at the site. Please see sign-up sheets for the coming month in the narthex. If you’re not available this month, all additional dates through April are listed below.

Crossroads Lunch for a Buck

Crossroads Campus Ministry is for students of all backgrounds and beliefs who need food to sustain them through challenging times. Messiah is looking for volunteers to make food, deliver and serve food.

January 16 & 17 (*Monday Prepare/Tuesday Serve*) February 21 March 21 April 18

Connections Shelter

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.

January 30 & 31 February 27 & 28 March 30 & 31 April 21 & 22

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

January Collections

In January we will be collecting different items for Connections and Partners for Housing. Look for the big white box in the narthex starting January 8th. We are focusing on these items:

ground coffee lemonade mix paper towels
to-go cups with lids toilet paper kitchen garbage bags

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Mankato Zero Waste—What Can Be Recycled Refresher

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Immigration Conversation in Action

In last month's newsletter, Pastor Trish shared information on conversations that were happening with other churches (specifically: Grace, Bethlehem, Christ the King and Calvary in Rapidan) to come together and collaborate in supporting a refugee or asylum seeker/family. Our initial plans to proceed slowly and do additional research were changed when SEMN Synod staff (who had been helping us get started) were informed on a Friday evening in late December that a family from Nicaragua who was seeking legal asylum had plane tickets for Minneapolis the next evening and the sponsorship they had set up had fallen through. The team was asked, "can you help?" and the answer was yes. Shellee from Grace has made room in her home for Ariac, Andrea and their two young boys for the month of January. Winter outdoor wear and car seats were found along with a car and driver to go to the airport. In the less than two weeks since they have come, volunteers have learned how to use "google translate", and gift cards and the generosity of volunteers has ensured the initial and basic needs for the family have been met. What's next?

For now, decide if you would like to help, and where you might like to share your time.

1. Christ the King has agreed to act as fiscal host for the group. We will need a small group of people to manage those funds as it will be important to have all donations and expenses flowing in and out and tracked through this account. Do you like numbers? And making decisions about how to spend money?
2. We will need a few volunteers to help with the legalities of the process. For example – the family needs to check in at the ICE office at Fort Snelling by mid-February, and they will likely need assistance in tracking the requirements associated with seeking asylum. Are you good at details?
3. Housing! We will want to find a place for them to live by end of January. Do you know of anything affordable to rent? And watch for opportunities to donate financially as we implement the practice of helping a lot at first, and then backing off as the family becomes more self-sufficient (once parents are able to get work permits, etc.)
4. Education for the 7 year old and ELL classes for the parents – getting them registered, to/from classes. A lead volunteer is in place, and some of you already signed up as drivers – thank you. We will likely need many hands to help once things get underway.
5. Medical – we need to help them get on Medical Assistance, and take care of some medical issues. A lead volunteer is in place, so looking for others to help with the appointments and maybe the paperwork.

There's more – but you get the idea. Please let the office, pastor or any of the team members from Messiah know if you'd like to help. Those folks include Sarah Suskovic, Judy Stow, Georgia Holmes, Jim Jilek, and Barb Meier. Thank you!

Singing Hills Chorus—Midnight Melodies Concert

Mankato & North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's presents the Midnight Melodies Concert with Special Guest—Melodia Choir, on **Saturday, January 7th at 1:00 pm at Hosanna Lutheran Church**. Reception to follow. General admission is \$10, children 10 and under are free. For tickets, email katoactonalz@gmail.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*
2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click on "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.



Youth Activities

Sunday School

Mark Your Calendars

January 1st—NO Sunday School

February 5th—Prayer Pillow Blessing during worship for Pre-School through 2nd Graders

4th Graders First Communion Retreat

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, March 11, 2023**. On **Sunday, March 12th**, 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 by February 17th. First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Middle School Ministries

Mark Your Calendars

Dinner, worship and class will resume January 4th.

High School Youth

Summer Adventure

Grades 8-12—Pastor Trish has tentatively booked a couple nights at Green Lake Bible Camp for Sunday, July 30th—Tuesday, August 1st. Accommodations are cabins and a lodge “up on the hill” for those of you familiar with Green Lake. Cost is \$129 per person and includes meals and lodging. What will you do? Hiking swimming, canoeing, campfires, going to town, etc. If this sounds interesting for high school youth (or possible parent chaperones), please call or email the office or Pastor Trish by the END OF THE MONTH. Please include a \$50 deposit.

Scholarship Application Information

This will be the second year in which the congregation of Messiah will be giving a scholarship to any member of the congregation attending post-secondary education. Please remember, scholarships are not just for our high school seniors – anyone attending or planning to attend a post-secondary institution in 2023 is eligible. The scholarship is a \$250 award, renewable for up to four years/\$1000 total.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR RECIPIENTS

- Must be a confirmed member of Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Have completed 25 hours of volunteer work in the church or community. See list of approved activities.
- Be attending an accredited college, university, or technical college.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECOND YEAR RECIPIENTS

Write a 250-500 statement highlighting what you like about Messiah Lutheran Church and any suggestions on how to make the church experience more rewarding.

PROCESS

- Submit application & volunteer form or essay by March 1, 2023 to the office, Pastor Trish, or a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- Notification of awards will be by May 1, 2023.
- Recognition of awards will be on Graduation Recognition Sunday.
- Scholarship is distributed after successful completion of the fall semester at the approved post-secondary institution. Submit unofficial transcript by December 31, 2023.

SCHOLARSHIP INFO AND FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.messiahnorthmankato.com/club1706>

CHURCH COUNCIL

December Highlights

Financials—Income for November was \$34,074.52 and expenses were \$26,637.64 -- resulting in income over expenses by \$7,436.88. Year-to-date expenses are over income by \$1,213.26. No unusual expenses are noted.

The council voted to use the \$1250 benevolence slated for missionary support in 2022, to be used to support the refugee family now in Mankato as currently there aren't any missionaries being supported by the SEMN Synod.

The council would like to have an audit completed of the 2022 church finances in 2023. They are wondering if there is anyone in the congregation who would be able to complete this task, or if anyone could make a recommendation of someone to the council. If yes, please contact Pastor Trish.

Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
1/1	New Years Day Worship United at 10:00 am in Gathering Place	Ushers: NA Reader: NA Comm: NA
1/8	Ushers: Barb Pingel & Brad Heliman Reader: Chuck Dulas Comm: Elaine Fossen & Judy Funk	Mike Erickson & Jim Jilek Marlene Buker Darci Karau & Jan Waller
1/15	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Steve (Janet) Jones Reader: Britta Petersen Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Linda Wenkel	Mike Erickson & Jim Jilek Lisa Benson Deb & Frank Steichen
1/22	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Steve (Janet) Jones Reader: Amy Soost Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic	Dave Dahl & Bill Halstead Kay Lund Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer
1/29	Messiah Worships United at 10:00 am	Ushers: Dave Dahl & Bill Halstead Reader: Eva Borneke Comm: Shawna Merrill & Lisa Benson
	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
2/5	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Greg Guyer Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Janet Jones & Cheryl Christofferson	Jon & Jeran Karau Eva Borneke Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
2/12	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Greg Guyer Reader: Sarah Suskovic Comm: Diane Halvorson & Linda Wenkel	Jon & Jeran Karau Lynn Klaber Anna & Jim Jilek
2/19	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Chuck Dulas Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Elaine Fossen & Judy Funk	Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore Lucette Hurley Deb & Frank Steichen
2/26	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Chuck Dulas Reader: Mike Hanson Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer	Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore April Rosendale Darci Karau & Gina Henkelman

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worships United (FB also) & Continental Breakfast Happy Birthday Pastor Trish	2 Office Closed	3 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	4 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	5 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows 5:00 pm Bible Study	6	7
8 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 11:30 am Council Meeting	9 9:00 am SAIL Group	10 9:30 am Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	11 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	12 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	13	14 11:00 am Jim Middleton Funeral
15 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	16 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Make Food for Crossroads	17 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 10:45 am Deliver and Serve Food for Crossroads	18 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	19 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	20	21
22 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 4:30 pm New Member Orientation	23 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00-6:00 pm Blood Drive	24 9:30 am Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	25 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	26 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	27	28
29 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worships United (FB also) & New Member Sunday 11:00 am Annual Meeting w/Light Meal	30 10:00 am Pathstone Worship 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	31 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Pastor Trish on leave through mid/late February. </div>			



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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, Earl W, Judy F, Millie, Arthur H, Tom T, Lois S, Sally M, Debbie S, Suzanne H, Mike F, Heather S, Trudy N, Mike T, Micah G, Logan, Mollie D, Tom F, Lowell R, Carolyn L, Shirley R, Bonnie O, Patty A, Chuck R

Those who serve our country: Dan P, Carley, Alex

Prayers of Sympathy to Pastor Trish and Steve Reedstrom, Steve and Janet Jones, and family on the death of their father, Russell Jones.

Prayers of Sympathy to Sean and Jen Donkin and family on the death of Sean's father, Jim.

Online Worship and Winter Travelers

If you join worship via online regularly, or once in awhile, or if you will be heading south for the winter or taking a vacation and plan to join us for worship, feel free to pick up as many pre-packaged elements for communion as you might want or need anytime. If you don't see any or enough sitting out in the narthex, just ask.