


MESSIAH
lutheran church
*Sharing the love of Jesus*

1706 Lee Boulevard, North Mankato, MN
507-387-5537
messiahnorthmankato.com

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

"As you listen to the Scripture readings, notice what catches your attention and then we can use that to spark our discussion today." That was the invitation of the pastor at a church I recently attended. My attention was caught by the very first verse that was read.

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship." (Romans 12:1)*

Sitting next to me was a young woman who one week earlier had given birth. Her body has not been her own since his conception and for the foreseeable future, it would not be, as she nurses every few hours, sleeps in shifts of a few hours at a time, and parents a toddler! I see in her nurturing, faithful, generous giving of herself, a "living offering" in her calling as a mother. Her whole body and self is invested in her calling as a mother.

I've heard that scripture passage many, many times. Maybe you have, too. The phrase "living sacrifice" has always brought to mind those who literally give their lives for others: war heroes, first responders, the martyrs of faith. But now there was another context: those who responsibly, passionately, whole-heartedly invest themselves in what they have been called to. And, that self-giving is worship. It is honoring God. That has me wondering to what do you and I give ourselves to with such dedication and passion, with our whole bodies, and with our whole selves? Is it caring for a loved one, feeding the hungry, caring for creation, seeking justice for the oppressed, or teaching? Is it doing little projects for a neighbor who can no longer do it themselves, helping someone learn the English language, participating in a musical group, tending a garden, or writing poetry? Perhaps something else comes to mind for you. It could be something extraordinary and bold or it could be something small, unnoticed by most, but known to God. If you can identify that for which you give of yourself freely and whole-heartedly, then there also an invitation to consider that it is an act of worship… a way of honoring the presence of God in that person or activity.

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship."*

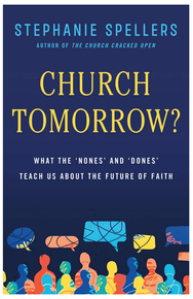
With gratitude for each of you,

Pastor LaDonna

## Share the Warmth—Extended to September 13th

The cooler temperatures will be here before we know it. As the season changes, this is a great time to clean out those closets. 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 as needed. Items needed: coats, scarves, hats, boots, mittens, warm socks, sweaters.

## Fall Congregational Book Read




Sign up has begun for this year's Congregational Book Read. Church Tomorrow? by Stephanie Spellers explores the rise of "Nones" (no religious affiliation) and "Dones" (those done with formal church). The book gives an essential look at why younger generations leave traditional religion. It examines ways the modern church can adapt and listen to shifting spiritual trends.
Four small group study options will be available. Joining a small group is optional—you're welcome to read along with us on your own. Sign up sheets and books are available in the Narthex. The study groups will start in mid October. Contact Janet Jones 507-340-7093 or Myra Kluck 402-469-8649 with questions.

## God's work. Our hands. Worship - Sunday, September 20th

Join us as we gather for a special "God's work Our hands" worship and music festival on Sunday, September 20th at 10:00 am. (one worship only) Following worship, the congregation will participate in a project inspired by the Singing Hills Chorus of Mankato. Stay for lunch, fellowship, and a congregational project.

## Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsals will be on Thursday nights 6:30-7:15 (ish) - September 10th and 17th. We will sing for our united 10:00 worship on September 20, 2026. I am excited to gather again and I've chosen choir arrangements to "How Great is our God" and "On Eagles Wings". Please invite anyone you know that would enjoy singing and praising our Lord! … open to anyone age 13-100!! Questions: call or text Cindy Rupp at 507-327-9306

## Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning bible study is back this fall, starting **Wednesday, September 9th at 9:00 am**. This casual small-group meets weekly on the couches in the narthex and is intended to meet you wherever you are in your faith journey. They join in watching a 40-45 minute video sermon from Lutheran Church of Hope out of West Des Moines, followed by sharing thoughts. This bible study can be attended every week or as time fits your schedule.

## Thursday Men's Bible Study

This weekly bible study meets at **7:30 am Thursday mornings at Happy Chef**. Enjoy a tasty breakfast and conversation about the upcoming Sunday's scriptures. This is a great way to get to know others from Messiah and grow in faith and understanding together.

## Messiah Kids Fall Updates

Online registration is open for Preschool – 5th grade. For the 2026-27 school year, these groups of children will meet on Wednesday evenings beginning September 16th. Parents and children are welcome to join in Wednesday dinner with a free-will offering available from 5:30-6:00 pm; join as a family for a short 30 minute worship from 6:00-6:30 pm; then send their kiddos off with the classroom teachers from 6:30-7:00 pm. Parents are welcome to stay and socialize with other parents while waiting for class time to finish. Register Here.

## Middle School Ministries (MSM)

Online registration is open for Middle School Ministries for 6th-8th graders. Register Here.
Middle School Ministries for 6th, 7th and 8th graders will begin with an orientation for parents and students on Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm.
The full Wednesday evening schedule begins on September 16th:

- **5:30 pm**—meal
- **6:00 pm**—worship
- **6:30-7:30 pm**—large group & small group class time

Everyone is welcome for the meal and worship, regardless of whether you have youth participating in MSM.

## Blessing of Learners & Educational Personnel

Students from preschool to grad school and any who work in the field of education at any level (teachers, assistants, administrators, bus drivers, maintenance workers, etc) are invited to be present at either the 8:30 or 10:00 am worship on Sunday, September 13th or the 6 pm worship on Wednesday, September 16th, for a blessing as a new school year begins.

## God's work. Our hands.

We asked for people to sponsor music appreciation bags for the Singing Hills Chorus for the "God's work. Our hands." project. The goal of 50 bags was met so quickly (THANK YOU ALL!) that we're using the extra funds to add more items to the tote bags. Each tote bag will include a variety of personal items and small musical instruments. In celebration of the musical festival on the 20th of September the bags will be filled by Messiah members. Singing Hills Chorus, especially created for persons living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and their care partners. We celebrate the full potential of people living with Alzheimer's.

## Seniors Lunch - Starting in September

This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends, men and women. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation. We have a long table reserved so we can dine together.
**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 15th at 11:30 am
**WHERE:** NaKato Bar & Grill / 253 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato
**MENU:** https://www.thenakato.com

## Shelter Church Volunteers

Shelter Church is a ministry based in Mankato, MN. We believe that true community starts with a shared table. We provide free, delicious meals to all who need to eat, while offering a space to connect with a caring community and hear some good news in the midst of whatever life brings. We are dedicated to ensuring that no one goes hungry while we journey together in faith.
Messiah's social outreach group has agreed to serve the 2nd Sunday of each month. The Tokheim Family has agreed to be the lead for this ministry. We will be asking the congregation for food donations and hosts to sit at each table and help serve the family style dining experience.
The next date is September 13th from 4:30-6:00 pm. Look for a sign-up sheet available in the narthex 2 weeks in advance.

## Crossroads Campus Ministry begins Holy Closure

Last month the Crossroads Board of Directors made the difficult decision to enter into the process of Holy Closure, with plans for ministry to close in December 2026.Although the Campus Cupboard will remain open to shoppers through November, Lunch For-a-Buck will not resume at the start of fall term. Please keep Crossroads and the students & families who will be losing essential food support in your prayers as we enter this very difficult period of closure.

## Council Updates

2026 council members: Nate Brekke, Joanna Petersen, Jean Zandstra, Katie Hendrickson, Swede Mundell, Julie Olsen, Jodi Himmer, Janet Jones, and Pastor LaDonna.

Total monthly income for July was $25,751 and expenses were $26,411 resulting in expenses over income by $659. Year to date income is $201,894 and expenses were $208,616 -- resulting in expenses over income by $6721. Also remember that by removing the remaining five months of prepaid contributions, expenses would be over income by $15,000. No unusual expenses were noted.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14th at 5:30 pm. -

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code:
2. or 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.

## South Central Minnesota Pride

An ecumenical worship service will be held on Saturday, September 12th at First Presbyterian Church in Mankato to celebrate the gifts of our LGBTQ2IA+ community. Members of that community and allies are invited to attend. Pastor LaDonna and other faith leaders will provide leadership for the service. Following the service, The South Central Minnesota Pride celebration will take place in the Mayo Civic Center Plaza. NOTE: There is no parade this year, due to construction at the Vetter Stone Amphitheater.

# High Schoolers...



Don't miss the first official game/activities night on September 16th!
We will play games, win prizes, discuss what you want to do for future events!
Bring your friends to add to the fun! Come at whatever time you can make it.

Pizza is served at 5:30 pm
Worship is at 6:00 pm **New worship band**
Games start at 6:30 pm until 8 pm

# high school happenings

Do you want to know what our high school members are up to when they are not at church?
Go to the first bulletin board down the education hallway.
We have schedules and pictures of some of our busiest members.
You can check the schedules and come support our high schoolers or see their accomplishments on the board.

Have news or photos to share, please email youthdir@messiahnorthmankato.com





# scholarship OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know Messiah offers scholarships?

If college or vocational school seems like it could be in your future, take a few moments to check out the information on the church website. It's never too early to start planning for your future.

Volunteering doesn't have to be difficult. There are ways to volunteer in your community and here at church.
See the next page for easy ideas.

# September-October Worship Participants

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 (507-387-5537) or Dee Nolan (507-340-2162) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

| September | | 8:30 AM | 10:30 AM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9/6 | Ushers | Brad Heilman, Barb Pingel | Frank Steichen, Dayle Moore |
| | Reader: | Diane Halvorson | Dee Nolan |
| | Communion Assts: | Elaine Fossen, Linda Wenkel | Swede Mundell, Jan Waller |
| 9/13 | Ushers: | Brad Heilman, Barb Pingel | Frank Steichen, Dayle Moore |
| | Reader: | Kim Henrickson | Kimberly Moore |
| | Communion Assts: | Scott & Sylvia Norman | Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler |
| 9/20 Worship United 10:00 am | Ushers: | Ron Leiferman, Jim Jilek | |
| | Reader: | Georgia Holmes | |
| | Communion Assistants: | Doug & Karna Stock | |
| 9/27 | Ushers: | Ron Leiferman, Greg Guyer | Jim Jilek, Paul Henkelman |
| | Reader: | Renee Guyer | Jeff Pribyl |
| | Communion Assts: | Amy & Jeremy Soost | Marlene Buker, Gina Henkelman |

| October | | 8:30 AM | 10:30 AM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10/4 | Ushers | Les Altenburg, Kim Henrickson | Karla Elmore, Karen Walrath |
| | Reader: | Greg Suskovic | Eva Borneke |
| | Communion Assts: | Diane Halvorson, Al Narveson | Lynelle Harms, Lynn Klaber |
| 10/11 | Ushers: | Les Altenburg, Kim Henrickson | Karla Elmore, Karen Walrath |
| | Reader: | Sonja Parr-Baker | Shirley Rosenau |
| | Communion Assts: | Paul & Jane Zwieg | Kara Pipes & Lauren Pipes |
| 10/18 | Ushers: | Jeremy Soost, Kyle Vogt | Jim Jilek, Steve Carlberg |
| | Reader: | Amy Soost | Joan Klanderud |
| | Communion Assts: | Greg & Sarah Suskovic | Chuck and Betty Rafferty |
| 10/25 | Ushers: | Jeremy Soost, Kyle Vogt | Jim Jilek, Steve Carlberg |
| | Reader: | Steve Lenz | Bernie Latulippe |
| | Communion Assts: | Marilyn Hanson, Mary Borth | Peter & Phyllis Skadahl |

There are volunteer opportunities to assist with screens at both worships each Sunday. Anyone, adults and youth, comfortable on a computer can easily learn. The sign-up clipboard is in the narthex. Contact the office with any questions.

**NOTE to Youth:** If you are looking for ways to earn hours towards the Messiah scholarship program, any of the above roles could be counted. Any questions, please check with the office.

# September 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **1**<br><br>1:30 pm Staff Meeting | **2**<br><br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch | **3**<br><br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group | **4** **OFFICE CLOSED** | **5** |
| **6**<br><br>8:30 am **Worship**<br>10:30 am **Worship** | **7** **OFFICE CLOSED** | **8** | **9**<br><br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch<br>6:30 pm MSM Orientation | **10**<br><br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br>5:30 pm Bell Choir<br>6:30 Choir Practice | **11** | **12**<br><br>10 am – 6 pm<br>Private Event |
| **13**<br><br>8:30 am **Worship**<br>10:30 am **Worship** | **14**<br><br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br>5:30 pm Council Meeting<br>6:00 pm Scout Meeting | **15**<br><br>11:30 am Seniors Lunch @ NaKato<br>1:30 pm Staff Meeting | **16**<br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch<br>5:30 pm Dinner<br>6:00 pm **Worship**<br>6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes<br>6:30-8 pm High School Youth | **17**<br><br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br>5:30 pm Bell Choir<br>6:30 Choir Practice | **18** | **19** |
| **20** **GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.**<br><br>9:30 am Choir Practice<br>10:00 am **Worship**<br>*(followed by congregational project and luncheon)* | **21**<br><br>9:00 am SAIL Group | **22** | **23**<br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch<br>5:30 pm Dinner<br>6:00 pm **Worship**<br>6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes<br>6:30-8 pm High School Youth | **24**<br><br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group | **25** **OFFICE CLOSED** | **26** |
| **27**<br><br>8:30 am **Worship**<br>10:30 am **Worship** | **28** **OFFICE CLOSED**<br><br>9:00 am SAIL Group | **29** | **30**<br>9:00 am Bible Study<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch<br>5:30 pm Dinner<br>6:00 pm **Worship**<br>6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes<br>6:30-8 pm High School Youth | | | |

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# Prayer List

**Health & Healing Requests:** Clara, Nancy, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Brian, Loren, Kim P, Brooks, Theresa, Mitchell
**On-going Prayer Needs:** Mollie, Carolyn, Craig, Earl, Neal, Heather, Greg, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya, Sandie, Kyla, Roz
**Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country:** Tyler, Cole, Kyra, Patrick
**Prayers for the asylum-seeking family the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.**

**Messiah Communication**

Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events.

**Click Here**

## Wednesday Worship Resumes September 16th
## - Live Band Leads Music -

Our multigenerational, brief Wednesday worship, will welcome a small group of musicians to lead some of our music! The group features Myra Kluck on keyboard, Charlie Landgraff on drums, and Gretta Gorman as our vocalist. Myra is a member of Messiah and has a life-time of musical experience. Charlie and Gretta are high school youth. We appreciate Cindy Rupp's leadership in forming the band and coaching them into their role as worship leaders.

Everyone is welcome at Wednesday worship, which begins at 6 p.m.