



**February 2022**

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

## **The Joy of the Lord Is My Strength**

**- A Message from Pastor Trish -**

Many of you already know or have figured out that I am a voracious reader. My family makes fun of me because I am always coming home with armloads of library books, and I NEVER leave the house without a book, because you never know when you'll have a few minutes to read.

Recently, some of the books I've read that have been written in the last year reference the pandemic as part of their story line, and as I read these works of fiction, I find myself reliving those early days of the pandemic. I find it very disconcerting! For better or worse, we are coming up on the two year anniversary of pandemic life. Two years later, and we continue to grapple with what it all means. But while some of the fiction I like to read leaves me discombobulated, scripture can ease the anxiety, and remind us that God's people have been through difficult times before.

I was recently reading a blog post by Debie Thomas, who said as much in regards to one of our recent lectionary readings from Nehemiah. First, the background: Nehemiah was a Jewish leader who supervised the rebuilding of Jerusalem in the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BCE, as part of the return of the exiles from Babylonian captivity.

In chapter 8, the prophet Ezra is reading from the law of Moses to those who have recently returned to the city, and although we're not sure the reason, the gathering and reading caused many to weep. Perhaps it's because the trauma was so fresh, or their future far from clear. But it is in this moment that Nehemiah speaks up to remind the crowd that "this day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." He goes on to remind them to "go your way" and to "not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Despite the difficulty, the uncertainty, the too fresh memories and ongoing trauma – the children of the Lord are reminded that THIS moment is holy, and they are encouraged to live into that holiness. It seems that hearing the stories from the law of Moses reminded them of their own place in the long arc of God's story, with all its sorrow, lament, repentance, and hope. It is their remembering that allows them to move into the future; recognizing that the sacred stories of the past offer a way forward into the unknown. For although everything has changed, they are home.

So it is with us. Everything has changed for us; nothing will ever be the same, and there is no going back to what once was. Nevertheless, we are home, in God's kingdom. God is still our God; God's word still offers us promise and opportunity and hope; God is still at work in us and among us. This moment is holy, and this moment deserves our joy. If you are a traditional hymn lover, go ahead and sing a verse of "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" and if contemporary music is your style, pull up the Rend Collective's "Joy of the Lord". Or simply pray the refrain to that song: "The joy of the Lord is my strength. In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing; the joy of the Lord is my strength." Amen.

## Crossroads Lunch for a Buck and The REACH

**Crossroads Campus Ministry** 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, February 14th or deliver and/or serve meals on Tuesday, February 15th—<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 donation to purchase the food.

Looking ahead we will also serve on Tuesday, March 22nd as well as Tuesday, April 19th.

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### 10:30 am Worship Opportunity

Currently, we livestream the 8:30 am worship on Facebook each week. We've had some requests to offer this for the late worship. If we have volunteers who know how to do Facebook Live or anyone interested in learning how, please contact Pastor Trish. This is also a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours. We would add this option to our worship plan on a week-by-week basis depending on availability each week. **Please note** that we will still continue to stream the 8:30 am worship each week.

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### Quilting 2022



Quilting resumed in January and it was great to be back together again. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of January, February, 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. The first planning meeting will be scheduled soon but it's not too late if you want to be a part of the organizing. Call the office if interested.

## Youth Activities

### Middle School Ministry—Winter Meltdown—February 2nd

The 6<sup>th</sup>—9<sup>th</sup> graders from Mankato area ELCA churches (Bethlehem, Christ The King, Epiphany-Eagle Lake, Grace, and Messiah) will come together for a fun evening on Wednesday, February 2nd at Grace Lutheran Church from 6:30-7:30 pm. Speakers will include Lauren Senden and Lori Wollmuth.

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### 8th Grade Retreat—February 12th

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat is set for February 12th, at Gustavus Adolphus College. They will leave Messiah in the morning and return before dinner time. 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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### 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 by February 18th. First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, April 10th.

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### VBS Day Camp—June 19th-23rd

It may be -13 degrees as we write this, but summer will be here before long and planning for summer fun is just what we need! 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 Preschool to those completing 5th grade in 2022 can register for \$40 (scholarships available). 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. Stay tuned for more information on volunteers needed.

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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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### 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. Early bird discount ends February 15th. 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)

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### Middle School Ministry Fundraiser FOCP (Backpack Program)

MSM student fundraiser in January was a great success and raised just over \$1000 in jar sales to support the FOCP Backpack Program. Stay tuned for the final total. It was a fun night with the students and parents who helped assemble the jars. Thank you to those that supported this, either by their purchases or those that donated directly towards the FOCP Climb and Slide 2022 fundraiser. We hope you are enjoying all the tasty treats and drinks.





Messiah Lutheran Church  
 1706 Lee Boulevard  
 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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

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[www.messiahnorthmankato.com](http://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, Gary Z, Dan and family, Jim M, Sharon D, Jessica R, Edwin, Richard, Millie, Darold, Ellie, Arthur, Suzanne

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

**Prayers of Sympathy** for the family of Rosie Peterson on the death of her mother.



**Worship Schedule**

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

**February Worship Participants**

February	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
<b>2/6</b>	<b>Usher:</b> Jeremy Soost <b>Reader:</b> Amy Soost	Dayle Moore Kimberly Moore
<b>2/13</b>	<b>Usher:</b> Greg Guyer <b>Reader:</b> Carla Butcher	Jim Jilek Kay Lund
<b>2/20</b>	<b>Usher:</b> Scott Madigan <b>Reader:</b> Greg Suskovic	Cory Merrill Lucette Hurley
<b>2/27</b>	<b>Usher:</b> Kim Henrickson <b>Reader:</b> Janet Jones	Mark Gulden Joan Klanderud

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!

## January Council Meeting Highlights

The council approved the financials—our total income was \$35,741 and expenses were \$34,835 resulting in income over expenses \$905. Year-to-date expenses are over income by \$2917.

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday January 30, 2022 after the 10:00 am Messiah Worships United service.



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## Messiah Scholarship Fund

This summer we developed a scholarship fund for members of the congregation attending post-secondary education. The policy is effective January 1, 2022 for the 2022-23 academic year.

### REQUIREMENTS

- 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.

### PROCESS

- **Submit application and volunteer form by March 1, 2022.**
- Notification of awards will be by May 1, 2022.
- Recognition of awards will be Graduation Recognition Sunday.
- Scholarship is distributed after successful completion of the first semester at the approved post-secondary institution. Submit unofficial transcript by December 31, 2022.

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## Lenten Worship Schedule

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd with worship at 6:00 pm. Each Wednesday throughout Lent we will gather at 6:00 pm for worship. Mankato area pastors attended the SEMN Synod Fall Theological Conference and wanted to share some of what they experienced with you, by choosing a theme for the Lent sermon series—"Sabbath". Bethlehem, Grace, Calvary (Rapidan), Messiah and Trinity (Madelia) will join in a Round Robin each week.

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

Thank you for the much appreciated gift that we received from our Messiah friends. We wanted you to know what we were able to get because of your generous spirit. I was able to give my husband much needed underwear--a bigger size and no extra holes, I also got him new t-shirts that he was most happy to receive. He saved his part for me, I was overjoyed to be able to get an incredibly beautiful fall wreath for the front door. It is made of silk leaves, not plastic, all possible due to the lower prices after Christmas and your generosity. We thank you so very much for your gift.

To Everyone at Messiah!

Thanks to all of you for the Christmas gifts that were given to us. Every year we pray we could return those gifts to you. We pray all of you had a Wonderful & Blessed Christmas and that the New Year brings much joy to all of you.

God Bless!

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## Janet Adams Ordination—February 19, 2022 at 2:30 pm

Janet Adams has asked to celebrate her ordination here at Messiah! Ordaining Janet will be Bishop Dee Pederson from the SW MN Synod. Members of her new congregation, Trinity Lutheran in Madelia will be attending. This very special day of worship and celebration. As part of that day we will be hosting a reception for her. Everyone is invited. Wear Red. Masks required.

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## COVID-19 Update

We continue our current practice: wear masks during worship and all youth activities and small adult groups decide per group. Wednesday evening meals are on hold for the time being. We will keep you updated on any other changes.

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 5:00 pm MSM Winter Melt-down	<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>6 Communion</b> <b>Installation of Council</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>7</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm LLL Board Mtg	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 9:30 am Quilting Group	<b>9</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth 7:30 National Youth Gath- ering Meeting	<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> 8th Grade Retreat at Gustavus
<b>13 Communion</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b> 3:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Make food for Crossroads and REACH 6:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>15</b> 10:45 am Deliver and serve food to Crossroads 11:45 am Deliver REACH 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 6:00 pm 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> 2:30 pm Janet Adams Ordination
<b>20 Communion</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship (FB also)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship (band)</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>22</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 9:30 am Quilting Group	<b>23</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 6:00 pm 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>Pastor Trish is gone February 21st for continuing education and vacation through March 1st.</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>You are welcome to join a bible study anytime!</b>						