



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

WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER *Kristy Tokheim, Director of Youth Ministry*

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

I am excited to welcome Kristy to our staff as our part-time Director of Youth Ministry, effective August 1st! Her focus will be growing our ministry with 9th – 12th graders.

For a number of years, there has been a gap in our ministry with youth once they affirmed their faith, at the conclusion of 8th grade. We want Messiah to be a place where youth continue to grow in their faith and where they know there is support, care, encouragement and celebration for who they are and what's happening in their lives. Having a trusted adult to provide leadership is critical to that vision.

Initially, the plan is to build from what is currently happening on Wednesdays, with the addition of activities for high school youth. High school youth can gather to share a supper together, attend the brief worship, and then hang out for planned activities like games, service projects, conversations, and supporting one another in the ups and downs of adolescent life.

Youth can also connect by attending monthly off-site activities like bowling, WOW Zone, tubing, attending a sporting event, etc. The summer of 2027 will bring the triennial Youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We hope to have a group of youth who are excited to attend!

Kristy comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with youth. In addition to parenting four of her own, she has served in various leadership capacities with sports teams, the PTO, and Lancers. She is a member of Messiah and has served as our Middle School Ministries Coordinator for the past 3 years.

When asked what she likes best about working with youth, Kristy said, "Their honesty." That's an answer that speaks volumes about her openness and hospitality for youth to "come as they are."

This Director of Youth Position is part-time, approximately 10 hours per week. Funding the position is part of the 2026 congregational budget and is made possible by the generous, regular, faithful contributions of our members and friends. Thank you for keeping your giving current or making up if, over the summer, you've fallen behind, as we support and fund our ministry with youth.

Please join me in welcoming Kristy to the staff and giving thanks to God for providing just what we need for this stage of our ministry of "Sharing the Love of Jesus."

Gratefully,

Pastor LaDonna

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST
2026

Share the Warmth—August 1st-31st

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.



Prayer Shawl Update

The prayer shawl ministry meeting will be held on Saturday, August 8th at 10:00 am in the Gathering Place. If you can not attend the meeting and you have completed a prayer shawl please leave it in the quilting room with your name on it. If you have any questions, please call Alice at 507-387-4755.

Fall Congregational Book Read

Introducing our Congregational Book Read for the Fall of 2026 featuring: Church Tomorrow? by Stephanie Spellers

This is a great chance to connect with members of our congregation and strengthen relationships.

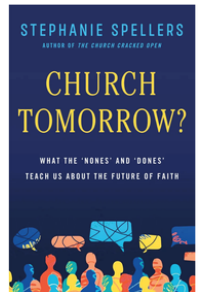
Please prayerfully consider participating in this book study. We are also looking for facilitators for our groups. There is a written Resource, Reflection and Action Guide for the book – so being a facilitator will be easy (just read the discussion questions and let people talk about them).

Contact Janet Jones 507-340-7093 or Myra Kluck 402-469-8649 if you are interested in being a facilitator.

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 for groups will begin in September. Books have already been ordered and will be available in the Narthex.



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

XCEL Energy Capacity Connect

If you see people from Xcel Energy on the church grounds, they are doing a feasibility study for the possibility of Messiah hosting a battery energy storage system (BESS). The council is giving Xcel permission to visit our site, Messiah, 2-3 times soon to see if there is a place on our property that would be a match for a battery energy storage system. These batteries store energy when demand is low and then release it during peak time to keep the grid reliable for the entire community. Messiah has not entered into any kind of agreement to move forward with such a project, this is just to see if it is feasible to decide if both parties want to move forward with such a project. If you have questions or want more information, contact Pastor LaDonna at church or Janet Jones 507-340-7093.

Messiah Kids Fall Updates

Online registration is now open for Preschool – 5th grade. For the 2026-27 school year, these groups of children will meet on Wednesday evenings. 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 now 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.

In Correlation with "God's Work, Our Hands" Musical Festival we are looking for Congregational Members to sponsor [Music Appreciation Bags for the Singing Hills Chorus at \\$20.00 each.](#)

Each Canvas 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, started in September 2017. Singers of all abilities create and learn in weekly rehearsals at a warm and accessible music venue with a specially trained professional choral director who ensures artistic excellence. The rehearsals culminate in a concert showcasing the accomplishments of the singers. Singing Hills Chorus was inspired by the Twin-cities based *Giving Voice Chorus*!

We celebrate the full potential of people living with Alzheimer's.

Save the Date - 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.

Habitat for Humanity Event

On July 18th, Messiah welcomed and served breakfast for 40+ cyclists who were in the midst of the multi-day Bike.Build.Home 500 biking event, held in conjunction with South Central MN Habitat for Humanity. We also presented a \$400 check to Habitat in support of their work in the Mankato area.

A HUGE thank you and "job well done" to Alexis Tokheim, one of our high school youth who planned and led the breakfast!



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 June was \$19,539 and expenses were \$30,665 resulting in expenses over income by \$11,125. Year to date income is \$176,142 and expenses were \$182,205.49 -- resulting in expenses over income by \$6,062. Also remember that by removing the remaining six months of prepaid contributions, expenses would be over income by \$16,227. No unusual expenses were noted. 2025 YTD income was \$188,713 while expenses were \$181,760 resulting in income over expenses by \$6,953.

Discussions this month included:

1. Approval of the new part time Youth Ministry Director
2. Removal of Ash trees that are diseased
3. Benevolences for the months of July, August and September: Habitat for Humanity, Singing Hills Choir and Salvation Army
4. Income is down for the months of May and June
5. God's Work our hands service is September 20th with 1 service at 10:00 am
6. Pastor was elected to the synod council; they meet 3 -4 times per year
7. Big "Thank You" to all the volunteers that worked our Pie and Brat stand. The report is that this year was the best year for volunteers at the stand.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10th 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.





FUN DAYS 2026: That's a Wrap!

The weather was a BIT warm BUT great fellowship and fun was still had at the North Mankato Fun Days 2026, held at Wheeler Park in Lower North Mankato. Thank you to ALL who helped with planning, setting up, grilling, serving, scooping, greeting, cleaning, tearing down and financially supporting the Pie and Brat Stand.

Here are some FUN FACTS from Messiah's Pie and Brat Stand this year:

- In total, 70 pies and 34 gallons of ice cream were purchased for the 5 day event; Strawberry Rhubarb is always the crowd favorite!
- Ten gallons of giant pickles were purchased by our customers at \$1 per pickle. They were SOLD OUT by Sunday morning.
- Over 450 individuals were served on Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for the Special Needs Carnival - Thanks to Tricia, Pat, Judy, Grace, Olivia, AJ and Jean for working this shift!
- A Thrivent Action Team Kit was requested and granted for the Special Needs Carnival. Thank you THRIVENT!
- The gross income for the five days was over \$10,000. A full breakdown of costs and net income will be provided in the Annual Report. We always send 10% to the North Mankato Fun Days/Business Association.
- Each volunteer could designate their hours to a ministry at Messiah. One hour earned \$10. Here are the results:
 - \$700 to Scholarships (70 hours)
 - \$550 to Youth (55 hours)
 - \$370 to Worship/Music (37 hours)
 - \$500 to Social Outreach (50 hours)
 - \$300 to Property (30 hours)
 - The remainder stays in the Fellowship and Recreation Fund



SPECIAL NOTES: I could not accomplish this project if it weren't for Amy Malvin in the church office. She listened to me, supported me, brainstormed, problem solved and helped me with EVERYTHING stand related behind the scenes. (She also worked many hours AT the stand!) Also, thanks to Dustin Runkle and crew (moving IN and OUT the large equipment), Jim Senden, Greg Ous, Jim Jilek, Kim Henrickson, and Crystal Halstead. Saying that Crystal put in some hours at the stand is an understatement. She fully commits to supporting our stand by: grilling, organizing soda in the cooler, carrying flats of soda, helping set up and tear down...and did I mention GRILLING?!?, This year there were additional roles added called "Stand Managers". The following took on this role during Fun Days: Janet & Steve Jones, Jody & Bernie Latulippe, Tricia & Pat Tobin, and Jan Waller. This event could not have been possible without your work and support!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2027

Fun Days is scheduled for July 7 - 11, 2027...SEE YOU THERE!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynell Senden

From everyone at Messiah ... Thank you Lynell Senden for your continued leadership over this yearly adventure. The organization skills you bring to the table in addition to your unwavering support is so appreciated!

August-September 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!

August	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
8/2	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Communion Assistants: Scott & Sylvia Norman	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman Lynn Klaber Swede Mundell & Bob Rothenbuehler
8/9	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Reader: Sarah Suskovic Communion Assistants: Steve & Janet Jones	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman April Rosendale Sheryl Gulden & Jane Unzeitig
8/16	Ushers: Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Reader: Greg Suskovic Communion Assistants: Linda Wenkel & Al Narveson	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Peter & Phyllis Skadahl
8/23	Ushers: Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Reader: Steve Lenz Communion Assistants: Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Jan Waller Lynn Klaber, Lynelle Harms
8/30	Ushers: Scott Madigan & Steve Jones Reader: Janet Jones Communion Assistants: Greg & Renee Guyer	Peter Skadahl & Steve Carlberg Karen Wright Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes

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

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.

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Brian Stockland Memorial Service 9:00 – Visitation 10:00 – Service
2 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	3 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Social Outreach	4	5 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	7 CLOSED @ 12 pm	8 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting
9 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	10 9:00 am SAIL Group 11:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Private Meeting 5:30 pm Council Meeting	11	12 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	14 CLOSED	15 10 am – 6 pm Private Event
16 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	17 9:00 am SAIL Group	18	19 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	21 CLOSED @ 12 pm	22
23 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	24 9:00 am SAIL Group	25 1-6:00 pm Blood Drive	26 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	27 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	28 CLOSED	29 Gina Dahl Funeral 9:30 – Visitation 11:00 – Service
30 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 1-4 pm Private Event	31 9:00 am SAIL Group					



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

PHONE: 507-387-5537

Rev. LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



Sharing the Love of Jesus

Prayer List

Health & Healing Requests: Clara, Nancy, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Brian, Loren, Kim P, Brooks, Jessica

On-going Prayer Needs: Craig, Earl, Neal, Heather, Greg, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya, Sandie

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Tyler, Cole, Kyra

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

Prayers of sympathy to James Moore on the death his mother, Ada.

Prayers of sympathy for Maggie & Dave Dahl and Family on the death their daughter, Gina.

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L a b e l

Messiah Communication

Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events. If you previously received our "What's Up" email, you will need to "opt" in to receive the new weekly message. Guests are invited to sign-up as well.

[Click Here](#)



American
Red Cross

Community of Giving

*Be a part of the
lifesaving cause.*

**Tuesday, August 25th
1:00-6:00 pm
Messiah Lutheran**