



October 2022

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

You've probably heard the word "hope" at Messiah by now. We had "HopeComing" and "HopeSending" Sundays, and council leaders talked about "hope" as a theme when they discussed our roadmap goals for the coming months. This month, you are encouraged to sign up for an opportunity to meet with a small group once a month for 6 months to discuss what else? Hope. That's also the theme for the sermons every Sunday in October. More on that in a bit – first: why hope?

It was the theme that popped out at us earlier this summer when congregational leaders were gathering to discover a direction to take over the next several months (i.e. roadmap). As we talked about all the changes of the last 2+ years and how it's affected us as individuals and as a community, and as we pondered what we needed during this time of continued uncertainty, the need to be people of hope rose to the top. Leaders recognized that it is increasingly difficult not to succumb to the despair, anxiety and antagonism that is so prevalent these days. There was agreement that what we needed was the ability to hope and believe that things will get better. And what better place to talk about, look for and discover hope than the church?

But understand: real hope isn't "if I just wish hard enough (or work hard enough) things will be OK". That's a myth that doesn't serve any of us very well. Instead, hope is about refusing to yield to the darkness; it's about believing things will get better even while being realistic about the time it will take for that to happen. Hope is about deciding to look for the light in the darkness itself; it's being intentional about seeing the hidden signs that are all around us. Most of all, hope is about believing that the One who created us and saved us is with us in the misery, and hope is about sharing that understanding with one another when we all struggle with hopelessness.

Which brings me to our Sunday worship services in October. Each week, we will focus on a quality of hope: faith, blessing, persistence, community, action. I'm relying heavily on a book I discovered this summer: "Ladder to the Light: an Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage". The author is Steven Charleston, and he's a member of the Choctaw Nation as well as an Episcopal bishop, seminary professor and dean. I expect I'll be sharing a number of quotes with you from his book, which uses the Native American vision of a "kiva" as a metaphor for climbing up and out of the darkness into light. Bishop Charleston writes that the kiva is a sacred space of darkness (think of a womb) where we all begin. It's also a place of "spiritual resilience", a place of formation and growth. In that place we learn, understand and mature until we are ready to climb the "ladder to the light" and take our place in the reality of the world around us. But that metaphor won't be the focus for our worship services. Instead, I discovered that each of our gospel readings for the month will allow us to focus on a particular rung of this ladder that he writes about, and that's where we'll get our qualities of hope. Come and hear some of the very familiar stories about and parables of Jesus found in Luke 17-19 while we explore qualities of hope, and encourage each other to live as people of hope. See you in church! (And sign up for that small group!)

Understanding Islam and the Local Somali Community

Saturday, October 22 from 2-4:00 pm

Program Summary: The size of the Muslim community in the Mankato area has grown dramatically over the last several decades, primarily due to an influx of Somali refugees. Minnesota is the home of the largest Somali community outside of Africa. Learn about the Five Pillars of Islam, the Six Pillars of Faith, and Somali culture from a longtime member of the community and co-founder of the Mankato Islamic Center.

Presenter(s): Abdi Sabrie is an Academic Advisor at South Central College in Mankato, a former Mankato school board member, and a co-founder and director of the Mankato Islamic Center. He received the national Jefferson Award for Public Service in 2012 and a two-year Bush Fellowship in 2018.

This event is sponsored by the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners. All are welcome.

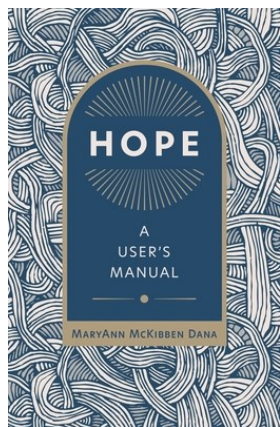
Harvest Hope Dinner & Classical Piano Concert

October 30, 2022

Mark your calendars. We are hosting a fundraiser for Messiah's food outreach programs. Cindy Rupp and Noah Wilson will perform after dinner. Dinner served at 6:00 pm with choice of chicken, beef or vegetarian meal. Concert will be from 7:00—8:00 pm.

Tickets are available in the church office and on Sundays. Dinner and Concert—\$20.00. Concert only—\$15.00.

Small Group Study Opportunity—Hope: A User's Manual



Small groups are an opportunity to connect with others and grow in faith and hope in a smaller setting. It's an opportunity to not just grow in your own faith, but to grow in community with others as well. Small groups are currently forming, and will hopefully start meeting in November. Each small group is asked to meet once a month for 6 months, at a location of their own choosing, including an option to meet at Messiah. Groups can meet in person or on-line, so don't let your location or travel plans stop you from joining. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex, or call the office to sign-up.

What will happen in the groups? Discussion will focus on the book "Hope: A User's Manual" by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Each of the six chapters are composed of several small (1-2 pages) reflections, followed by a discussion question or two.

The chapters are: 1) What Hope Is Not 2) What Hope Is 3) Hope Lives in the Body 4) Hope Travels in Story 5) The Practice of Hope and 6) Hope Beyond Hope. Groups will meet once a month, and can discuss all or part of each chapter. Whether you read ahead of time, or read together – the choice will be up to you and your group. Watch for details soon to order a book through Messiah, or grab your own copy from your favorite bookseller.

Anti-Racism, Immigration Conversation & Action

Thursday, October 13 from 6:30 pm

This month, we will combine our anti-racism team discussion with anyone else who might be interested to talk about the recent gathering of Mankato area ELCA churches to explore the possibility of welcoming and supporting an individual or family refugee or asylum seeker(s) to the community. In that meeting, 5 or 6 area churches agreed to proceed with further discussion and a commitment, and their next meeting will be November 3rd at Messiah. In the meantime, we will be talking about what Messiah can and is willing to do. There are many possibilities for doing this work as well as many opportunities to be involved in a variety of ways. Anyone who might be at all interested is encouraged to come. If you can't make it and want to know more, contact the church office or Pastor Trish.

Adopt-a-Highway

Sunday, October 2 from 12-3:00 pm

Please consider walking road ditches with your Messiah family and bring along a friend or two! This is a great way to show our stewardship efforts toward improving our land and water. We will gather in the church's east parking lot at noon for instructions. Vests and bags will be provided. We'll go out to our section of Highway 14 on **Sunday, October 2nd** for about 2 hours. It works great if we get about 20 walkers. A meal will be provided to each worker from Big Dog after we walk. The Fellowship and Recreation Team will cover the cost of your meal. Please email Lynell at lynellsenden@hotmail.com OR text her at 507.380.1483 with your interest and how many will be participating. Families are invited! NOTE: walkers MUST be ages 12 and up. WHAT TO WEAR: long pants and sleeves, gloves, closed-toe shoes, hat/sunglasses. RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 9th.

Crossroads Lunch for a Buck Volunteer Opportunity

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.

Sign up to prepare meals on Monday, October 17th or deliver and serve meals on Tuesday, October 18th—<https://signup.com/go/FxVNGhD> 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.

Connections Ministry—Volunteers Needed



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 have a 35-bed capacity with nightly meal. Messiah as committed to volunteer as a congregation October 26th and 27th to make and serve the evening meal. If you are interested in helping with any of those portions, please sign-up at this link: <https://signup.com/go/tCgRWHy>. If you're not available in October, this link also has Messiah's November and December volunteer dates as well.

Worship Opportunities

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex at the Ushers Stand, for volunteers willing to assist with 8:30 screens and 10:30 screens and/or Facebook livestream. Anyone who knows how, can sign up can sign up on a week-by-week basis. If you're interested but don't know how, it's easy and we can train you whenever it works best for you—it only takes 30 minutes to get the hang of it. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours.

Please Note: We will continue to stream the 8:30 am worship each week. We will add 10:30 Facebook livestream when we have volunteers.

Share the Warmth

As winter approaches, we are looking for donations for all ages of new or gently used coats, scarves, hats, boots, mittens, warm socks, sweaters, etc. We will distribute to local organizations. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

Sunday School Snacks

We are looking for donations of prepackaged snacks (no nuts please) to share during class-time on Sundays. Snacks can be dropped off any time during the week or on Sunday mornings.

Youth Activities

MSM Fall Updates

The 6th and 7th graders will be doing a retreat at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp (part of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries) on Friday and Saturday, October 7 & 8. Please keep these young people in prayer as they enjoy time together in the crisp fall air.

Our Middle School Ministries started the year with 28—6th to 8th graders registered. Wednesday evenings begin with supper, followed by worship, a large group lesson and small group time together. Anyone is welcome to join us for supper and worship. We are beginning the year with lessons on the Apostles' Creed.

Prayer Squares—Thank YOU

Thank you to those who have completed prayer squares (knitted, crocheted or quilted) for our middle school youth, to be distributed at their “Winter Warm-Up” on November 16th. More squares are still welcomed. Any left over after the event will be distributed to other locations and people in the community.

High School Youth—Last Sunday Sessions

High School Students! As mentioned last month, we will be meeting for “Last Sunday Sessions” on the last Sunday of each month, either in the afternoon or evening. We will try for something different each month – an escape room, movie, pizza, Mt. Kato.....suggestions always welcome.

In September, the high school youth went on a bike ride on the Red Jacket Trail and then had some fun at Pastor Trish's house.



For the 2nd Last Sunday Sessions on October 30th, we will be serving dinner at Messiah for the Harvest of Hope Dinner & Piano Concert. Meet here at 4:00 pm. Watch for more details via email.

In November we are planning on doing an escape room. Plan to join us Sunday afternoon, November 27th.

HS Youth: Kick-Back at Luther Glen Farm

Pastor Trish is currently exploring interest in a high school youth trip to California July 23-28, 2023. Any youth grades 8-12 is eligible to come on a week of “adventure and gathering” that will include camp-style fun and faith building, service work and side trips to Southern California mainstays, including Disneyland. Cost for the week is \$700/person plus airfare. We will meet at 4:00 pm on October 30th for further information, discussion and decisions. Parents welcome and encouraged to attend.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Opportunities

Weekend retreats by teens, for teens ... with Christ!

Open to students grades 9-12. Go to www.southerntec.org for more information and to register or see Pastor Trish.

October 20-23 Bethlehem Lutheran in Mankato

A Service of Blessings

On September 4th with the help of Marlene Buker, Kim Henrickson, Julie Olsen, and Britta Petersen, we came together in a beautiful service of blessings—our pets, our students and educators, our health, prayer shawls. We remembered our baptisms and dedicated trees in memory of Rita Halstead.



God's Work Our Hands Service Project

On HopeComing Sunday, September 11th we gathered after worship for an all-congregation service project. We assembled over 100 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.



Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursday Night Bible Study has resumed and will continue Thursday evenings 5 pm. The focus on our studies for this fall will be the Paul's letter to the Galatians. The study includes a video presentation by theologian N.T. Wright (approximately 30 minutes in length) followed by open-ended conversation. We try to be done by 6 pm, (unless our conversation gets too exciting). If you'd like to increase your Biblical knowledge a little, learn some new things, and meet some new Messiah friends, this study is for YOU! No homework, and don't worry if you can't get there every week. Come try it out!

Messiah Choir Singing Opportunities

We will practice on Wednesday, October 12th and 26th at 7:00 pm as we prepare to sing at the Messiah Worship United service on Sunday, October 30th at 10:00 am.

We will also practice on Wednesday, November 2nd and 9th at 7:00 pm as we prepare to sing during both worship services on November 13th.

Bring your friend, partner, spouse, child and/or parent. Practice for October, November or both. Everyone is welcome! Any questions, please call Cindy Rupp, director, at 507-327-9306.

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. 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

September Highlights

The council discussed communication re: the 2022 budget of \$345,000 for 2022. As we head into the last quarter of the fiscal year, expenses are in-line with expectations. (Expenses through 8-30-22 are at \$231,345.) That's the good news! The not-so-good news is that income is also below budget. As of 8-30-22 income was at \$206,308, resulting in a YTD difference between income and expense of \$25,036. We hope and trust that all the activities, education, support, and relationships that the Messiah community fosters is important to you, your family and your community. Leaders also hope you will respond by reviewing your own offerings to the ministry so far this year, and then giving from your heart, recognizing that such giving is a big part of what it means to love each other. Please share your questions and concerns with council members. Thank you for all the ways you already share your time and your treasures with this ministry, and please prayerfully consider your gifts to Messiah for this last quarter of the year.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm.

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.

Ways to Give Online

How to give online:

1. Scan this QR code:

or

2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com

> Click on "OFFERING" on the homepage, 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.



October Worship Participants

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!

10/2	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Greg Guyer Reader: Amy Soost	Bill Halstead & Dave Dahl Kay Lund
10/9	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Greg Guyer Reader: Renee Guyer	Bill Halstead & Dave Dahl Joan Klanderud
10/16	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Greg Ous Reader: Diane Halvorson	Cory Merrill & Frank Steichen Lucette Hurley
10/23	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Greg Ous Reader: Sarah Suskovic	Cory Merrill & Frank Steichen April Rosendale
10/30	Messiah United at 10:00 AM	Ushers: Karla Elmore & Mark Gulden Reader: Lynn Klaber



October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Communion served every Sunday</p>						<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting 10:30 am 4H Mtg</p>
<p>2 3rd Grade Bible Blessing 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 12:00 pm Adopt-a-Hwy</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 am SAIL Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows 5:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:00 pm 6th/7th Grade Retreat to GLLM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 pm 6th/7th Graders Return from GLLM</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 12:00 pm Adopt-a-Hwy Rain-date 4:30 pm 4H Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Anti-Racism / Immigration Discussion</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 Funeral: Bernice Paulson</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 Private Event</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 2:00 pm TEC Event</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Make Food for Crossroads</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:45 am Deliver and Serve Food for Crossroads 1:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm NO Evening Activities</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study</p> <p style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: red;">MEA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:00 pm Understanding Islam EVERYONE WELCOME</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 6:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am SAIL Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 5:30 pm Evening Meal 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 7:00 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Reformation Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00am Messiah Worship United 4:00 pm HS Last Sunday Sessions: Meet at Messiah 6:00 pm Harvest Hope Dinner 7:00 pm Harvest Hope Piano Concert</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 Pathstone Worship</p>					<p style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px; text-align: center; color: red;">You are welcome to join a bible study anytime!</p>



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Mankato, MN
Permit #370

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PHONE: 507-387-5537

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, Earl W, Judy F, Milt H, Sharen O, Millie, Arthur, Tom, Bob G, Lois S, Sally M, Calvin D, Harvey, Rosie, Jim and Cheech, Debbie S, Suzanne H, Jodi H, Mike F, Gordon H, Kate S, Emma M, Heather S

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

Prayers of Sympathy for Sandy McGarry on the death of her husband, Dan.

Prayers of Sympathy to Leigh Paulsen and family on the death of his wife, Bernice. The funeral will be held Friday, October 14 at 11:00 am at Messiah, with a visitation 1 hour prior.

A note from Pastor Trish ...

Thank you again for your prayers and so many cards and expressions of support. I was overwhelmed! As of this writing I am recovered from the surgery which went well and removed the cancer. Hormone therapy has started and a radiation oncology consultation is happening soon. All in all, I am very grateful that the cancer was caught early and that we have such amazing medical professionals and facilities in Mankato. Thank you again.