



**MESSIAH**  
lutheran church  
*Sharing the love of Jesus*

**January 2024**

1706 Lee Boulevard  
North Mankato, MN  
507-387-5537

### **Anti-Racism Team Meeting**

The anti-racism team is planning a focus on indigenous culture in the coming months. We'll read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. **We're meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 and the next one is January 3rd.** We are also planning a trip for a Sacred Sites Tour next spring and a visit to the Pow Wow next September. More information to come. Contact Sonja and Briana Parr-Baker at [sonjaparr@gmail.com](mailto:sonjaparr@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **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 9th, 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.



### **Thursday Evening Bible Study**

The Thursday evening Bible study begins again on Thursday, January 11th. This group welcomes new members at any time! We use a video based curriculum which means we watch a video together – usually about 20 minutes in length, and then discuss what we've heard and learned. There is no prep or homework involved! This winter study is titled "Biblical Stewardship: Our Duty and Delight". Mark Allan Powell will guide participants to a clearer understanding of what it means to be a steward responding to God. Join us at any time in the Gathering Place.



### **Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024 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 2023 and discuss the budget and plans for 2024.

**BLOOD  
DRIVE**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 12:30 - 5:30 pm**

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, February 1st. There are appointment openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

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.

## Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Re-organization of our food ministry has begun as of January 1st. After much consideration and prayer about how Messiah serves Crossroads and Connections we have decided to make some changes.

**Crossroads** will remain the same – as least through April, changes may happen starting in September. Our next serve date is, Tuesday, **January 16th**. Sign-up sheets will be available on January 7th.

**Connections:** We are encouraging members of our congregation to form Serving Groups. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors to join you in providing a meal for 40 people and serving, once a season or more. Messiah has (2) active Serving Groups currently. You would sign up on-line through the Connections Website on the date of your choosing. There will be assistance available for sign-up, organizing, funds for purchasing food, preparing, and serving if needed. Please contact Barb Meier or the Church Office with questions or interest.

We will continue to serve Connections as a whole congregation 1x monthly instead of 2x monthly. Our next date is **Monday, January 29th** and sign-up Sheets will be available on Sunday, January 14th. Nona Niemeier's serving group is serving on **Wednesday January 24th** and sign-up sheets if she needs them will be available Sunday, January 7th.

## A Fresh Start—Collection Begins January 14th

A Fresh Start provides new home essentials for those emerging from homelessness. The white donation box will be out in the narthex for those who want to contribute.



# A FRESH START

## Items We Give Our Clients

- Can Opener
- Plates/bowls
- Lamp
- Strainer
- Drinking Glasses
- Cutting Board
- Kitchen Knives
- Silverware
- Booster
- Chair/High Chair
- Laundry Basket
- Toilet Bowl Brush
- Broom and Dust Pan

- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Shower Curtain and Hooks
- Sheets
- Comforter or blanket
- Kitchen Towels
- Measuring Cups and Spoons
- Spatula
- Mixing Spoon
- Food Storage Containers
- Pots/Pans
- Hot Pad

- Garbage Cans
- Lamps
- Light Bulbs
- Toilet Paper
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleanser(s) – multi surface
- Saran Wrap
- Garbage Bags
- Ziploc Bags
- Shower Gel
- Dish Soap/Dishwasher Soap
- Hand Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Hangers
- Plungers
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

We rely on 75% of what we give our clients to come from donations and the other 25% to be purchased with cash donations.

- Gift Card for 1st meal
- Kleenex
- Baking Sheet
- Cake Pan
- Extension Cord
- Beverage Pitcher
- Toaster
- Pizza Cutter
- Mattress Pad
- Bath Mat



## ECHO Food Shelf Drive

The ECHO Food Shelf Drive will begin on February 18th.

## **- A Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -**

Dear Partners,

As I begin my third month among you as an Intentional Interim Pastor, I want to share with you an outline of our work together in the next six to nine months.

The first three months of a Transitional Pastor's (another name of an Intentional Interim Pastor) time are spent getting to know the congregation, learning its history, offering grief support to those who mourn the loss of the previous pastor (in our case, Pastor Trish), leading at worship, presiding at the Sacraments, visiting the hospitalized, sick, and homebound, and assisting families who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

During these early months the Transitional Pastor begins to develop a list of members who will be asked to serve on the Transition Team. This team, to be approved by the Church Council on February 11th, will have responsibility for producing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) that will be sent to all pastors and recent seminary graduates who might be interested in serving at Messiah.

The Transition Team will participate with other congregation members and members of the Church Council at the Purpose and Guiding Principles Retreat on February 24th. Then, for a couple of months following that date, the Transition Team will provide opportunities for all our members to offer insights about our congregation, to present hopes and dreams for our future ministry, and to suggest changes in focus that make sense for our Christian community. The public phase of the Transition Team's work is completed on April 21st.

I cannot emphasize enough that the goal of these two+ months of work is to identify your insights, your hopes, and your dreams for our congregation, which is to say, the Transition Team decides very little but rather assists the congregation in determining and articulating the best path forward for this great and storied ministry called Messiah Lutheran Church.

From late-April to mid-May, the Transition Team will compile and interpret the data you offered and put it into the Synod-sponsored Ministry Site Profile (a congregation's resume if you will). On May 19th, Pastor Barb Streed of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will be with us to present the MSP to the Messiah community and ask for the affirmation of the congregation.

While the congregation is doing its work under the leadership of the Transition Team, the Church Council (during March and April 2024) will be soliciting potential candidates for the Messiah Lutheran Church Call Committee. The final slate of names will be approved by the Church Council on May 12, 2024. After having been trained by Pastor Streed, the Call Committee will begin its work. First, names of pastoral candidates will be given to the Call Committee by Pastor Streed (May/June). Then, the Call Committee will choose candidates to interview in June/July. Second interviews with very promising candidates will be held in July/August. Assuming the Call Committee finds the right candidate for Messiah Lutheran, a Call Meeting of the congregation will be called in late August or early September of 2024. If the candidate called by our congregation accepts the call, he or she could arrive as early as September or October of 2024. At that point Messiah Lutheran Church will have a new pastor and I will move on.

Please contact Messiah's President (Kim Henrickson) or me if you have names to suggest for members to serve on either the Transition Team or the Call Committee.

It is my privilege and delight to lead you through this process. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we gear up to find, call, and receive Messiah's new resident (settled) pastor.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Tim

## **Messiah Lunch Group**

This monthly lunch group is taking a break in January but coming back together again on Monday, February 5th at 11:30 am at Olive Garden in Mankato.

This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. We hope you will join us for good food, lively conversation, fun, and a chance to know other Messiah members. We will meet monthly at various restaurants of your choice in the Mankato area. Come and go as you please.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ARIAC, ANDREA, RANDY, AND KAMIL .

THIS IS THE FAMILY MESSIAH AND OTHER AREA  
CHURCHES ARE HELPING TO SUPPORT,  
WHILE THEY ARE SEEKING ASYLUM.



### Sunday School

#### ***4th Graders First Communion Retreat (Note Date Change)***

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. On **Sunday, March 3rd**, 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 January 26th. First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24th. (FYI for ISD77 families, spring break is March 25-29th.)

### Middle School Ministries

There will be no MSM on January 3rd. We look forward to seeing you back on January 10th.

### Last Sunday Sessions

High School youth ... keep watch for more information on the next Last Sunday Session.

### 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 2024 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, 2024 to the office or a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- Notification of awards will be by May 1, 2024.
- 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, 2024.

**SCHOLARSHIP INFO AND FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE:** <https://www.messiahnorthmankato.com/club1706>



# COUNCIL UPDATES

Stewardship & Finance: As of November 30, we slipped to 86% of budget compared to 91% of the last 2 years' average. Expenses are now \$25,015 above income. We ask that you catch up on your planned giving or prayerfully consider helping Messiah make up our year-to-date deficit. We thank you in advance.

Our 2024 pledges now total \$245,358 compared to \$251,519 last year. It is through your continuing gifts and pledges that our church, Messiah, can continue its many ministries. And for that we are grateful.

***\*The annual meeting is January 28, 2024. Team leaders, please submit final reports by December 31st.***

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

2. Visit our website at [messiahnorthmankato.com](http://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.



## Crossroads Campus Ministry—Thank You

We can't believe that we're already at the end of Fall Term at MSU-Mankato! We are beyond blessed to have Messiah Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed the Lord's sheep through our Lunch For-a-Buck program. We were pleased to welcome your volunteers on three separate Tuesdays during Fall Term when they fed a total of 154 people while collecting \$136.01 in donations. In all, five area ELCA congregations combined to serve Lunch For-a-Buck on 15 Tuesdays during the term, feeding a total of 828 people and collecting \$820.84 in donations. This is a substantial increase over 2022, when 448 individuals were served lunch during Fall Term and \$514.81 in donations was collected.

We look forward to seeing you at your next Lunch For-a-Buck following winter break on January 16, 2024. God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

*Crossroads Campus Ministry*

## South Central College —Thank You

I hope this note finds you well. On behalf of our culinary students and the entire South Central College community, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your generous hospitality in allowing us to use your kitchen for our Thanksgiving preparations.

Your warm welcome and open-hearted support made a significant impact on the success of our event. The accessibility to your well-equipped kitchen was invaluable for our students, providing them with a real-world experience that enhances their culinary skills and fosters a sense of community.

Your kindness exemplifies the true spirit of Thanksgiving, and we are incredibly fortunate to have partners like you in our local community. Your generosity not only contributed to the educational growth of our students but also created lasting memories for all involved.

We are truly thankful for your partnership and look forward to the possibility of future collaborations. May the spirits of gratitude and community that you embody continue to enrich the lives of those around you.

*Cristen Cox, Dean of Arts & Sciences, South Central Collage*

## January/February Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

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

### 8:30 am

- 1/7** Ushers: Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman  
Reader: Victoria Hanson  
Comm: Diane Halvorson & Linda Wenkel  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 1/14** Ushers: Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman  
Reader: Renee Guyer  
Comm: Cheryl Christofferson & Deb Leiferman  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 1/21** Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Kim Henrickson  
Reader: Amy Soost  
Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 1/28** Messiah Worships United  
at 10:00 am

### 10:30 am

- Jim Jilek & Paul Henkelman  
Lucette Hurley  
Betty & Chuck Rafferty  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Jim Jilek & Paul Henkelman  
Julie Olsen  
Deb & Frank Steichen  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Jon Karau & Jeran Karau  
Kay Lund  
Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Ushers: Jon Karau & Jeran Karau  
Reader: April Rosendale  
Comm: Victoria & Mike Hanson  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)

### 8:30 am

- 2/4** Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg  
Reader: Carla Butcher  
Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 2/11** Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg  
Reader: Linda Wenkel  
Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 2/18** Ushers: Rande Bowman & Scott Madigan  
Reader: Sarah Suskovic  
Comm: Elaine Fossen & Marilyn Hanson  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)
- 2/25** Ushers: Rande Bowman & Scott Madigan  
Reader: Chuck Dulas  
Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost  
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)  
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

### 10:30 am

- Peter Skadahl & Tim Hatlestad  
Dee Nolan  
Lisa Benson & Sheryl Gulden  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Peter Skadahl & Tim Hatlestad  
Sandy Hatlestad  
Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath  
Lynn Klaber  
Jodi Himmer & Gina Henkelman  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)
- Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath  
Eva Borneke  
Jan Waller & Swede Mundell  
TBD (call office if interested)  
TBD (call office if interested)

# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 am NO SAIL Group	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Team 5:30 pm No MSM Activities	<b>4</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	<b>11</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b> 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Crossroads Food Prep	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 10:45 Crossroads Delivery	<b>17</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	<b>18</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm NO Staff Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	<b>25</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am <b>Messiah Worship United</b> 11:00 am Annual Meeting <i>(with lunch)</i>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	<b>30</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>31</b>			



Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Boulevard  
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

Tim McDermott, Interim Pastor: [PastorTim@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:PastorTim@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

Jan Waller, Office Manager: [Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

Amy Malvin, Communications & Education: [Amy@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Amy@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

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[www.messiahnorthmankato.com](http://www.messiahnorthmankato.com)



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“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

# PRAYER list...

**Thoughts and Prayers:** Carolyn, Kathy, Rosie, Jeanette, Elle, Ruth

**Continued Thoughts & Prayers:** Craig, Earl, Sally, Mike, Linda, Bonnie, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Bill, Morgan, Peggy, Mollie, and Heather

**Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country:** Carley, Alex

**Prayers for the Cruz family:** Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

**Prayers for safe travels:** Lauren

**Prayers of Sympathy** for the family and friends of Mike Como.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Nona Niemeier on the death of her brother, Kevin.

## 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.