

MESSIAH
lutheran church
Sharing the love of Jesus

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

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

I captured this picture a couple of years ago on the first day of Autumn. A nearby maple tree released these gorgeous red leaves, which landed on my porch. They were the only leaves on my porch that day, speaking a clear message that the summer of growth, produce, green and warmth was beginning its process of dying away and going dormant.



As nature lets go of its vibrant summer life and releases its produce in preparation for its season of rest, it stirs within me memories of my childhood and family rituals. I grew up in a family of seven in rural Ohio. One of the ways my parents kept food on the table for that size of a family was with a summer garden that was over half an acre. Throughout the summer, the food on our dinner table always reflected what had just ripened in the gardens. Nothing compared to the taste of corn that had just been plucked off the stalk 20 minutes earlier, from a garden just a steps from our back door.

There was always more produce ready to be harvested than even our large family could consume. That was intentional, of course. My parents knew the importance of not just food for today, but for the winter ahead. Many summer Saturdays were spent snapping bushels of beans and husking hundreds of ears of corn, preparing some of the extra garden produce for freezing. Those frozen bags of fruits and vegetables would see us through the winter, until the next summer's harvest.



I've been reflecting lately on the word "harvest". I've begun a practice of harvesting the blessings in and around my life. It is, for the most part a "naming" exercise. I'm writing them down on strips of paper and putting them in a heart-shaped wooden box, given to me by a former parishioner, who was a master craftsman.

This practice feels different from "counting my blessings", which, for me, has some connotations of trying to quantify God's goodness or being part of some contest where the one with the most "wins". Harvesting the blessings in my life, though, feels a bit like when my parents, siblings, and I would snap beans and husk corn so we could be fed through the long, cold winter months. When my own days this winter turn darker and colder and when life can feel more cocooned and solitary, this box of harvested blessings will invite me to occasionally remove a strip of paper and read its blessing. In my memory I will taste the sweetness of God's handiwork in my life, with plenty of joy and blessing to share with others.

With joy that you are gathered in my harvest of blessings,

Pastor LaDonna

Special Thanks to the Messiah Garden and Lawn Teams

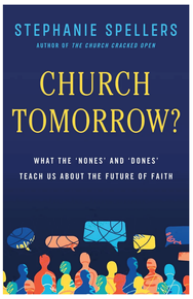
To all those who have helped this summer to keep the lawn and gardens of Messiah so beautiful … Thank YOU! Throughout the summer we hear so many comments about how pretty and well groomed our space is. Volunteers come out each week in the heat and humidity to make this happen. What special time and talents to share with this community.

This fall we also had many ash trees removed and we look forward to the opportunity to plant some new trees.

Choir Practice

Mark your calendars to practice some new music on:
-Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 (sing at both services on Sunday, October 11th)
-Thursday, October 29th at 6:30 (sing at both services on Sunday, November 1st)
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

Fall Congregational Book Read



Church Tomorrow? by Stephanie Spellers - These are the final weeks to sign up for the congregational book read. Church Tomorrow? examines the decline in religious affiliation and what we can learn from those who have turned away from formal religion. October 11th will be the last Sunday to sign up! The following discussion groups and their discussion leaders still have space available:

- Margaret Yackel-Juleen, Tuesdays at 9:00am
- Lynn Klaber, Tuesdays at 1:00pm
- Kim Henrickson, Tuesday at 6:30pm
- Greg Suskovic, Wednesdays at 1:30pm
- Myra Kluck, Thursdays at 6:30pm
- Sundays Between Services, 9:30am

If you would rather read the book on your own and not be part of a group, that option is available as well. Sign-up sheets and more information are available in the Narthex.

Halloween Seniors Lunch - October 27th

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, October 27th at 11:30 am
WHERE: Culver's - North Mankato

Mark your calendars for the Seniors Holiday Potluck at Messiah on Tuesday, December 8th at 11:30 am.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning bible study is back this fall 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.

Social Outreach 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.

Upcoming Serving Dates:

- **Sunday, October 11th**

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 has a 35-bed capacity with nightly meal. Opportunities exist to make a meal and serve at the site.

Upcoming Serving Dates:

- **Monday, October 12th**
- **Monday October 26th**
- **Monday, November 9th**
- **Tuesday, November 24th**

Sign-ups for donations and volunteers for the Shelter Church & Connections Homeless Shelter will be available in the narthex through November 1st.

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 August was $32,193 and expenses were $31,521 resulting in income over expenses by $672. Year to date income is $234,087 and expenses were $240,137 -- resulting in expenses over income by $6,049. Also remember that by removing the remaining four months of prepaid contributions, expenses would be over income by $12,826. No unusual expenses were noted.

1. Youth ministry Director has hit the ground running!!!!
2. Start of the programming year. Wednesday nights will be full of Preschoolers thru High school age kids
3. Benevolences for the months of October, November and December: A Fresh Start., MAVC, Reach
4. Stewardship Emphsis Theme "Who are we in Christ"
5. Crossroad Food cupboard is closing
6. We are getting some press from KEYC on The Gather event. it was featured on Kato Living

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19th 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.

Messiah Kids Fall Updates

October Info:

- Online registration is still open for Messiah Kids. **Register Here.**
- There will be no evening activities on Wednesday, October 14th, leading into the MEA weekend.

The full Wednesday evening schedule:
5:30 pm—meal with family
6:00 pm—worship with family
6:30-7:00 pm—PreK-5th grade class time
Parents are welcome to stay and socialize while waiting for class time to finish

Middle School Ministries (MSM)

October Info:

- Online registration is still open for MSM (6th-8th graders) **Register Here.**
- There will be no evening activities on Wednesday, October 14th, leading into the MEA weekend.
- See next page for information on the **Halloween Party**

The full Wednesday evening schedule:
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.

Fall Collection Updates



SHARE THE WARMTH - Collection is complete, We had an excellent response with a extra large amount of donations. We are currently sorting, packing and distributing the warm clothes to several non-profits in Mankato. Distribution should be complete by the end of September.





SINGING HILLS TOTE BAGS: Sponsorship of the Music Appreciation Bags exceeded our expectations. We were able to purchase 50 tote bags with the Singing Hills Logo, 16 different items to put into the bags including 3 small musical instrument and were able to present the program with a check of $240 toward scholarships. The Tote bags were filled on September 20th by the congregation for “Gods Work, Our Hands” Celebration. The council also decided to donate $400 toward scholarships to the program for the September Benevolence.



God’s work. Our hands. Sunday

We had a wonderful “God’s work. Our hands” worship on Sunday, September 20th with special emphasis on dementia awareness, welcoming 4 new members to the congregation, and lots of music. The congregation participated in a service project for the Singing Hills Chorus (more info above) and concluded with fellowship and lunch.













Halloween Party



High school and middle school students are invited to join in for a spooktacular party filled with games, costume contest, prizes, food and of course ... CANDY!

WHEN: Friday, October 30th
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran
TIME: 6-8 pm

Bring your friends! **Costume Contest starts at 7 pm**

Email with questions to youthdir@messiahnorthmankato.com

high school happenings



September WOW Zone Event



Join in the fun each Wednesday to hang out with other high school friends. 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

IMAGINE more

There will be an **informational meeting** on **Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30pm** at Messiah to discuss high school youth going to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering which will be held in Minneapolis June 28th - July 2nd. Parents and high school students are encouraged to attend to learn more and get timelines on this opportunity.

The **2027 ELCA Youth Gathering** is more than an event — it's a movement where young people and leaders come alive in faith, grow in hope and move with purpose. This is where the church comes to life.

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.

October - November 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!

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:	Myra Kluck, Al Narveson	Lynelle Harms, Lynn Klaber
10/11	**Ushers:**	Les Altenburg, Kim Henrickson	Mark Gulden, 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

November		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
11/1	**Ushers**	Rande Bowman, Greg Guyer	Jon Karau, Jeran Karau
	Reader:	Renee Guyer	Kay Lund
	Communion Assts:	Carl & Kathy Fitzloff	Darci Karau, Swede Mundell
11/8	**Ushers:**	Rande Bowman, Greg Guyer	Jon Karau, Jeran Karau
	Reader:	Sarah Suskovic	Julie Olsen
	Communion Assts:	Breah Hendrickson, Deb Leiferman	Jim and Marlene Jilek
11/15	**Ushers:**	Steve Jones, Steve Lenz	Mark Gulden, Bill Halstead
	Reader:	Diane Halverson	Lucette Hurley
	Communion Assts:	Linda Wenkel, Elaine Fossen	Sheryl Gulden, Lisa Benson
11/22	**Ushers:**	Steve Jones, Steve Lenz	Mark Gulden, Bill Halstead
	Reader:	Janet Jones	Jan Waller
	Communion Assts:	Scott & Sylvia Norman	Frank & Deb Steichen
11/29	**Ushers:**	Ron Leiferman, Jeremy Soost	Tim Hattelstad, Mark Himmer
	Reader:	Amy Soost	Marlene Buker
	Communion Assts:	Paul & Jane Zwieg	Jane Unzeitig, Dee Nolan

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.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	**2**	**3**
4 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**5** 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	**6**	**7** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**8** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 Choir Practice	**9**	**10**
11 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**12** 9:00 am SAIL Group	**13**	**14** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch No evening activities	**15** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	**16**	**17**
18 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**19** 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Worship Team 11:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Council Meeting 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	**20** 9:00 am Margaret's Book @ Messiah 1:00 pm Lynn's Book @ Kimberly's 6:30 pm Kim's Book @ Kim's	**21** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 1:30 pm Greg's Book @ Messiah 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**22** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm Greg's Book @ Messiah	**23**	**24**
25 8:30 am **Worship** 9:30 am Book Club @ Messiah 10:30 am **Worship**	**26** 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Social Outreach	**27** 11:30 am Seniors Halloween Lunch @ Culvers in N. Kato	**28** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**29** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 Choir Practice	**30**	**31**

Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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PHONE: 507-387-5537

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

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Kristy Tokheim, Youth Ministry: YouthDir@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com

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Prayer List

Health & Healing Requests: Clara, Nancy, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Brian, Loren, Brooks, Jessica, 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 of Sympathy to Cindy and Bob Rothenbuehler on the death of Cindy's mother, Jane Perkins.
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 - 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.
(Please note there will be no worship or evening activities on October 14th)