



MESSIAH
lutheran church
Sharing the love of Jesus

July 2024

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

summer

Outdoor Worship

Weather permitting, an outdoor worship is planned for Sunday, July 7th at 10:00 am. In order to have outside worship, the band is looking for 2 set-up volunteers from 7:45-8:15 am to help bring equipment outside. It is extremely helpful to be able to lift some heavier items. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

The additional outdoor worships planned are August 4th and September 1st. The same volunteer request is needed for those dates as well.

Anti-Racism Team Meeting

The anti-racism team is focusing on indigenous culture in the coming months. We'll be discussing the final section of the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This month's meeting will be **Wednesday, July 10th at 5:30 pm** at Messiah. Please read Section 5 (starting on page 303) - if you don't have time to read it, that's okay, please still join us. Contact Sonja and Briana Parr-Baker at sonjaparr@gmail.com with any questions.



—Pie & Brat Stand—

Our Pie and Brat Stand is an annual fundraiser to support Messiah missions, needs & various activities throughout the year. This year, Fun Days is scheduled to run Wednesday, July 10 - Sunday, July 14th.

Individuals ages 13 and older may work the stand....but ALL ages are able to support it by purchasing some or all of the delicious menu

items: grilled dogs, brats or chicken, chips, whole dill pickles, root beer floats, and most importantly.....pie and ice cream.

As you look at your summer calendars, please consider signing up for a shift or two. It is great fun. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex or signup here: <https://signup.com/go/jeEGfCo>

If you are interested in becoming involved in the behind the scenes of this fun project, contact Lynell Senden @ 507.380.1483. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Call Committee Update

The call committee has completed preparations for interviews. We have received 4 candidates from the synod and 3 candidates from referrals from the congregation. We are contacting the candidates and setting up interviews. The interviews will be beginning in July.

- A Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -

Dear Partners,

“We got some rain. Thanks be to God.”

“My son was accepted into his top choice for college. Thanks be to God.”

“We found the perfect candidate to serve as our Youth and Family Minister. Thanks be to God.”

“We have reached our goal in our major fundraising program. Thanks be to God.”

I know a pastor who appends the phrase, “Thanks be to God” to almost every good thing that happens in his life and in the congregation he leads. “Mark,” I said to him one day, “do you really believe that God is responsible for every blessing you receive?”

“Well, what’s the alternative?”, he responded. “Am I to believe that I am responsible for this constant stream of blessings? Am I to believe that God is not involved in my daily life—personal and professional? No, I can’t do that. While God may not be the source of all these blessings, I know that God is leading and guiding me, my family, and my congregation like the Good Shepherd God is. So, praise God from whom all blessings flow!”

We have so much to be thankful for. We have dedicated leaders serving on our Church Council and various boards, committees, and teams. Thanks be to God! We have gifted and talented music planners, leaders, and performers. Thanks, be to God! We had excellent leadership from our Transition Team which helped us put forth a sketch for a robust future. Thanks be to God! We have an extremely capable Call Committee spearheading the search for our new pastor. Thanks be to God! We have dedicated and generous members who daily live out our mission of “Sharing the Love of Jesus.” Thanks be to God!

My perspective is unique. I “dropped” into this church family last November. In the months that have passed, I have come to cherish this time I have spent with you. I am confident of your future ministry and grateful for the blessings which flow to me and to all our church family because of your commitment to being a strong, healthy, and forward-looking congregation. Truly, God know the plans God has for Messiah Lutheran: “Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

In the midst of this transition time, while we anticipate the selection of a new pastor, as we look around and thank God for wonderful partners in this ministry, let us take time daily to thank God “for all God’s benefits” (Psalm 103:2). God is blessing Messiah North Mankato. Thanks be to God!



THANKS BE TO GOD

Cruz Family Update

Randy won a new bike at Roosevelt Elementary in a drawing from those who participated in "Bike to School" day. He is also enrolled in a summer soccer league and is loving it! He will be in 3rd grade this fall at Roosevelt and starts summer school at Rosa Parks in July.

Kamil has fully recovered from his 5-day stay in Rochester because of a ruptured appendix.

Ariac has his MN Drivers' License Learners' Permit and is taking behind the wheel driving lessons. He could use some volunteers who would be willing to help him with driving lessons in addition to his lessons at the driving school.

Ariac and Andrea are taking summer school classes online through the Lincoln Community Center.

The entire family will spend 6 days at Camp House this summer after receiving a scholarship from GLLM.

All four received their official work permits, United States Employment Authorization cards (valid for 5 years) and their Social security cards. Ariac is quite handy and is also able to work for cash with a recommended pay of \$20 per hour, if anyone is in need of help.

Applications for Asylum are on file with Asylum Office in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have been since October, 2023. Massive backlog in processing. No interviews have been scheduled.



The Cruz Family watching Randy play soccer.



Randy is celebrating with Ben and Betsy Geer and family after the purchase of soccer shoes.

Sacred Sites Tour Opportunity

Messiah has an opportunity to go on a Sacred Sites Tour led by the Minnesota Council of Churches. This is something the Anti-Racism Team has been looking into because it fits perfectly into their theme of racial justice and native history.

Healing Minnesota Stories is an effort to create understanding and healing between Native American and non-Native people, particularly those in various faith communities. Native people have suffered deep trauma over many years, losing their land, language, and culture, and all who call Minnesota home are the lesser for it. While many people and institutions contributed to that trauma, it happened with the full participation of Christian churches. We all still need healing; healing is doable, and churches have a role to play in healing.

Tours are about 4 hours in length and are led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through storytelling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection. They visit sites located around confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including: Fort Snelling State Park, Dakota Internment Camp following the The Dakota-U.S. War, and Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground.

The Messiah Anti-Racism Team invites anyone interested in this participating in this experience to contact Briana and Sonja Parr-Baker (brianalbaker@gmail.com) to determine a date. They are looking at a Thursday or Friday in August with the cost being between \$30-50 per person.

Sunday School Updates for Fall 2024

The Sunday School team has met several times and talked with parents and sent out surveys. Through the Transition Team responses collected, it is clear that this congregation values our youth and wants to ensure we share the love of Jesus with them. This congregation has overcome challenges and we are continuing to learn who we are as a church and what we want to be as a congregation. We've taken all this feedback created a fresh new plan for Sunday School in the fall.

Sunday School for Pre-K (3 years old) to Third Grade—on Sundays

1. Families will come to 10:30 worship together
2. Children will be dismissed with Sunday School leaders after Children's Talk (about 15 minutes after church begins)
3. Parents can continue to worship until end of service at approximately 11:30
4. Parents pick up children from classrooms after worship.

Sunday School for Fourth and Fifth Grade—on Wednesdays

1. Families are invited to come to dinner from 5:30-6:00 pm
2. Families will worship together from 6:00—6:30 pm
3. Children will have their Sunday School lesson from 6:30—7:00 pm

Currently we do not have enough adult leaders to run a successful program. Ideally we would like enough adult leaders so people can alternate days they volunteer to lessen the overall commitment. We need your help on both Sundays and Wednesdays.

- Adult leaders
- Youth assistants
- Education office supply helpers (if teaching isn't your thing)

Lesson plans and supplies are put together in advance and the leader booklets tell you exactly what you need to do and what to say. All the activities are predetermined and you simply lead the children through.

Please reach out to Sunday School Coordinator, Heather Von Bank (heather.vonbank@gmail.com) or Amy Malvin in the church office (amy@messiahnorthmankato.com) if you have an interest in volunteering to help the Sunday School program this fall. Feel free to call with any questions.

We want to sincerely send thanks to all the past and present Sunday School adult leaders and youth volunteers who've shown their dedication to this program. We ask everyone to keep children, current leaders, and possible future leaders in your prayers.

Look for even more specifics in next month's newsletter and in the registration information to be sent out at the beginning of August.

Congratulations Graduate

The Messiah family wishes this graduate all the best in the next chapter of your life.

Full Name: Matthew Ty Parker (*Class of 2024*)

Parents: Jen and Brian Parker

Siblings: Jaxson and Katelyn

Favorite Class: Film Studies

High School Activities: History Club

Favorite Show: The Walking Dead

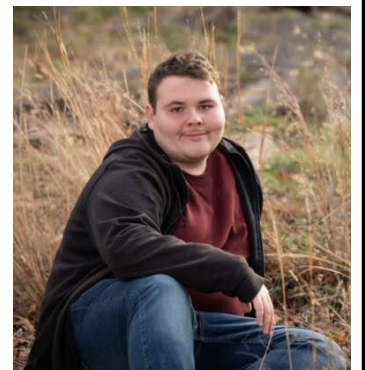
Favorite Book: It by Stephen King

Favorite Song: Just Like You by NF

Who is your hero?: Ronald Reagan

Describe yourself with 3 words: kind, humble, hard-working

Future plans: Attending South Central College and going into Social Work



COUNCIL UPDATES

Stewardship & Finance: We are at 39% of budget compared to last year of 42%. Going into the summer months, please continue to give generously to meet our ministry goals.

Council met on Sunday 6/23/24. Following opening devotions and approval of the agenda several reports were given:

1. Members from the Endowment Fund committee presented to the council and explained how the Fund works, how earnings are distributed at the end of their fiscal year and how those funds may be used. The committee made some proposals to the council on wording changes in the Constitution concerning the fund. These would clarify certain policies and wordsmith the document to make it more readable. They will write up a proposal and submit it to the Synod for approval.

2. Pastor Tim gave the council an exercise to help the members better understand what our new Strategic Planning committee is trying to accomplish. Answers to the questions put to the council will be brought back to the Strategic Planning committee.

3. Under Old Business Council President Greg S. informed the council who was on the Strategic Planning committee and what they have done following their first meeting. Plans are to meet every 2 weeks with the hope of completing some Plan by the Fall.

4. New Business. Recipients of our monthly benevolence for the next quarter was decided upon. This next 3 months we will be giving to the local Red Cross, Connections Ministry and the school backpack program.

5. There is some concern that our giving is not up to the budgeted level so far this year. As always when this happens we are concerned with not making all our expenses at the end of the year. See article below.

The next council meeting will be held July 14th at 11:15 am.

Summer Financial Update

Fellow Messiah Members,

As we move into the lazy, wonderful, relaxing months of summer I would ask you to remember your gifts to Messiah. Council has noticed that as of the end of May our YTD income is \$145,133. With a \$370K annual budget we should be at \$154,165. Going into our historically slower giving summer months I would encourage you to continue your giving to Messiah and if possible consider a little extra. This will ensure we can meet all our commitments and continue with all our excellent ministries.

Thanks,

Greg Suskovic, Council President

Strategic Planning Committee

The Church Council authorized Strategic Planning Committee held its first meeting on June 17. Members include Jerry Crest—chair, Bob Rothenbuehler, Doug Stock, Peter Skadahl, Linda Wenkel, Shawna Merrill, Amy Soost, Mike Hanson, Alissa Brekke, and Greg Suskovic – Council President, ex officio.

Pastor Emily Carson, Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of the SEMN Synod, will be serving as Facilitator/Consultant to the Strategic Planning Committee.

The task is to identify broad-based goals for the Messiah community and its ministry. Under each goal will be objectives to meet those goals in a timely fashion.

The committee will work throughout the Summer and into the early Fall. The timing is intentional as we hope that our call process will produce a Settled (Resident/Permanent) pastor in this time frame. Progress of the committee will be shared with pastors who are invited to a second interview with the Call Committee.

If you have any questions about the committee and its work, please contact Jerry Crest.

July & August 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!

Please note below—spots that say **TBD** are still needing to be filled, if you are able help, please call.

8:30 am

7/7 **Ushers:** Ron Leiferman & Les Altenburg
Reader: Linda Wenkel
Comm: Elaine Fossen & Steve Lenz

7/14 **Ushers:** Steve Lenz & Les Altenburg
Reader: Mike Hanson
Comm: Diane Halvorson & Cheryl Christofferson

7/21 **Ushers:** Ron Leiferman & **TBD**
Reader: **TBD**
Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig

7/28 **Ushers:** Ron Leiferman & Greg Guyer
Reader: Chuck Dulas
Comm: Victoria & Mike Hanson

8/4 **Ushers:** Randy Bowman & **TBD**
Reader: Carla Butcher
Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer

8/11 **Ushers:** Randy Bowman & **TBD**
Reader: **TBD**
Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Janet Jones

8/18 **Ushers:** Kim Henrickson & Scott Madigan
Reader: Sarah Suskovic
Comm: Al Narveson & Linda Wenkel

8/25 **Ushers:** Kim Henrickson & Scott Madigan
Reader: Steve Lenz
Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman

10:00 am

Bill Halstead & Amos Tokheim
Marlene Buker
Swede Mundell & Jan Waller

Bill Halstead & Amos Tokheim
Kay Lund
Deb & Frank Steichen

Steve Carlberg & Jim Jilek
April Rosendale
Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler

Steve Carlberg & Jim Jilek
Lucette Hurley
Phyllis & Peter Skadah

Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman
Julie Olsen
Kara Pipes & Marlene Buker

Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman
Lisa Benson
Dee Nolan & Sheryl Gulden

Peter Skadah & Tim Hatlestad
Sandy Hatlestad
Karna & Doug Stock

Peter Skadah & Tim Hatlestad
Shirley Rosenau
Phyllis & Peter Skadah

Summer Worship Volunteers Needed

During summer, we are in need of volunteers to help with screens and Facebook Live for 8:30 am and 10:00 am worship. We are also in need of set-up volunteers on outdoor worship Sundays: July 7th, August 4th, and September 1st. If you are interested, please let the office know or sign-up on the clipboard in the narthex. Thank you.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

2. 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.



Connections Shelter

Connections Shelter is looking for some extra assistance this summer, especially lately with all the rain, heat and humidity. They provided a link at <http://connectionsshelter.org/event>, then click on their [Amazon Wish List](#) for those able to help. Delivery Address: 800 S Front Street, Mankato at the Drop-in Center.

July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 am SAIL Group	2 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	3 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6
7 10:00 am <i>OUTDOOR</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band OUTSIDE	8 9:00 am SAIL Group	9 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	10 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Team (Conference Room) 5:30 pm Private Event (Gathering Place)	11 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	12 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	13
North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand						
14 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) (<i>Sweet Adelines</i>) 10:00 am Worship w/band 11:15 am Council Meeting	15 9:00 am SAIL Group	16 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	17 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	18 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	19 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	20
Fun Days—Pie & Brat						
21 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band	22 9:00 am SAIL Group	23 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	24 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	25 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	26 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	27
28 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band	29 9:00 am SAIL Group	30 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	31 9:00 am SEE Bible Study			



Messiah Lutheran Church
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 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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PHONE: 507-387-5537

Tim McDermott, Interim Pastor: PastorTim@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Jan Waller, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Amy Malvin, Communications & Education: Amy@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

PRAYER list

Thoughts and Prayers: Elle, Brooke, Cheryl, Diana, Micah, Arthur, Lyndsey, Trudy, Milo

Continued Thoughts & Prayers: Craig, Earl, Sally, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Margaret, Peggy, Heather, Mollie, Carolyn

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex, Tyler, Cole

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

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Musical Events

NintenTones

One of Messiah’s band members, Ryan Rader, is involved in a video game jazz orchestra group called “NintenTones”. They have another concert this summer at the Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter on Friday, August 16th at 7:00 pm. For more information, talk with Ryan or go to their Facebook Page “[NintenTones](#)”.

Cypress Fyre will be performing a concert at Messiah on Saturday, September 21st at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available in the church office. Cypress Fyre’s connection to Messiah is through Cindy Rupp—her son, Chris Rupp, is a member of this new a cappella group. To learn more about this group, visit cypressfyreband.com.

Fall Piano Concert Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the Fall Piano Concert fundraiser with special performances by Cindy Rupp and Noah Wilson, on Sunday, October 27th. More information to come in the coming weeks.