



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

**March 2024**

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

### Messiah Lunch Group

You are invited to join us for the Messiah Lunch Group on **Tuesday, March 5th** at 11:30 am at Pappageorge, 1028 N. Riverfront Drive. If you plan to join us, **it is important to let us know in advance**. Call the church office at 387-5537 or email [messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com](mailto:messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com). 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 meet monthly at various restaurants of your choice in the Mankato area. Come and go as you please.

### Anti-Racism Team Meeting

The anti-racism team is planning a focus on indigenous culture in the coming months. We're starting to read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This month's meeting will be **Thursday, March 7th at 5:30 pm**. Please read Section 1 (through page 61) - 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](mailto:sonjaparr@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Midweek Lenten Services

Lenten evenings, continue every Wednesday through March 20th with the soup supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. A free will offering will be available.

We are also looking for volunteers to provide cookies for the Wednesday evening meals during lent. Please click on the link or call the office if interested in signing up for a week. <https://signup.com/go/VHJKVgu>



### Spring Flowers for Easter

We are once again asking members and friends, if they wish, to donate spring flowers for Easter Sunday. You may purchase any flowers you like on your own and bring to church **by Good Friday**. Please fill out a form in the narthex in memory of or in honor of a loved one and return that **by Palm Sunday**.

### Holy Week Calendar

**March 24th**—Palm Sunday and First Communion @ 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**March 28th**—Maundy Thursday @ 6:30 pm

**March 29th**—Good Friday @ 6:30 pm

**March 31st**—Easter Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:30 am and Easter Breakfast served from 9:15—10:15 am

### Quilting

Quilting has begun. It is always great coming back together to resume our work and fellowship once again. Started in January, 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 at 507-380-5465.





## ECHO Food Shelf Drive

Messiah is supporting **Minnesota Food Share** and asking for monetary and food donations to be collected for ECHO starting through the end of March. Bring donations of food to church or consider making a cash donation. Simply put ECHO in the memo portion of your check and drop it off or mail it to Messiah.



## A Fresh Start—Thank YOU

*A huge thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for all of the donations. We filled up two entire SUVs and one car!*

A Fresh Start provides new home essentials for those emerging from homelessness.



## Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

**Crossroads: Tuesday, March 19th**—Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex on March 10th.

**Connections: Saturday, March 30th**—Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex mid-March.

We are encouraging members of our congregation to form Serving Groups for Connections to serve in addition to these dates. 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.

## Donation Request

Our food ministry team is looking for a donation of a **heavy duty** 10 quart soup kettle to help with making soup and chili for the large groups we serve at Crossroads Campus Ministry and Connections Shelter.



## Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 11:30 - 5:30 pm

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, April 18th. 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.

## Worship Screens and Facebook Live—Help Needed

*We are asking for some extra help during this time at Messiah. The Transition Team has begun their presentations during Sunday worships and have extra things they would like to share up on the screens, as well as wanting to reach as many people online as possible. Looking for some volunteers especially through April 21st to help.*

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 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 and add 10:30 Facebook Live when we have volunteers.

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

Dear Partners,

*"If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."*

So goes one way to summarize the conversation between Alice and the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's classic tale, Alice in Wonderland. This interchange, often cited in journals of leadership and management, speaks the truth: You must have a plan, an objective, a goal in order to succeed. This maxim applies to any congregation in the search process for a new pastor.

I've been listening carefully during my conversations with you in the past four months. I have no doubt that you all have ideas about where you want Messiah Lutheran Church to go.

Sometimes I hear you say: "Not that long ago we were a "hoppin' church." We were known for our youth, children, and adult programming. We need to get back to that. It will take a lot of work, but with the right pastor, we can get there."

From others I have heard something like this: "Look around on Sunday mornings. We are an older congregation. Let's celebrate that. Let's find a pastor with proven skills in leading older adult ministries. With a pastoral leader like that, we might even attract older adults from our community who will want to be part of this vitally needed ministry effort."

Other members offer this assessment: "We will never get back to the glory days...at least not all on our own. Now is the time to share resources and programming with other congregations in the North Mankato/Mankato community. We need to call a pastor who can form these alliances and champion shared ministry with other congregations in town."

I'll tell you what I haven't heard from anyone in this congregation: "Our best days are behind us. We are on a trajectory—a decline path—that nobody can reverse. We need a pastor who can take care of the sick and dying, lead a good funeral, and let us embrace this last phase of our life cycle with dignity and thanksgiving."

Which way, Messiah Lutheran? Now is the time to rally around one path that makes sense to most Messiah members and embrace a pastoral style that will fit with this congregation's current reality and its hopes and dreams for the future.

Finding a path that most of you can support is the goal of the Messiah Transition Team. By offering multiple ways for all of us to speak our hopes and dreams, the Transition Team will be well-positioned to complete the Ministry Site Plan which will then be distributed to potential pastoral candidates. Their work is going so well because so many of you have chosen to participate in the multiple information gathering events that they are leading: in-worship surveys, personal conversations and targeted interviews, and chatting over a cup of coffee. Thank you for the wisdom, hopes and dreams you are offering. And please seek out the members of the Transition Team\* to share your truth as we move forward to forming our Call Committee and selecting the pastoral candidate who can lead us best.

We will narrow down our options. We will be able to state clearly not only what we are dreaming for our congregation but also what God's dream is for Messiah. God is speaking through you. Thanks for talking.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

*Pastor Tim*

*\*The Messiah Transition Team: Marlene Buker, Briana Parr-Baker, Sarah Suskovic, Jerry Crest, Bill Halstead, Alissa Brekke, Lynn Klaber*

## **Transition Team Presentations and Questions**

The Transition Team will come forward each week during worship until April 21st to ask important questions about what we, as a congregation, want to see in our next pastor. Everyone will have an opportunity to write down their thoughts on each question. In order to gather information from as many people as possible, these questions will be available in the narthex each week and online at [www.messiahnorthmankato.com/transitionteam](http://www.messiahnorthmankato.com/transitionteam) if you've not had a chance to respond to each week's questions.

## Sunday School

There will not be Sunday School on Palm Sunday, March 24th or Easter Sunday, March 31st. Please join us for worship at either 8:30 am or 10:30 am.

## Middle School Ministries

**All MSM Students**—Until March 20th, the schedule will be 5:30 soup dinner, 6:30 worship, 7:00 MSM small group.

### Upcoming Dates for 8th Grade Affirmation Students and Parents:

Wednesday, March 6th—Affirmation information night at 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 7th—Retreat and making stoles from 12:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 24th—Rehearsal and dinner at 5:30 pm

Sunday, April 28th—Affirmation during 10:30 am worship

## Youth Summer Activities

It's time to start planning what our kiddos are going to do over the summer. There are plenty of fun summer activities that friends of Messiah can join in.

**Elementary**—Vacation Bible School this summer will be done jointly with Christ the King from June 10-13th. It will be hosted at CTK. Registration information will be available at the following link: <https://ctkmankato.org/get-involved/children>



**Middle/High School**—Messiah will be participating in Service & Sun with Christ the King from June 24-26th. This is a great opportunity to have fun in the sun as well as serve our community. Watch for a registration link coming soon.



**All Ages**—Green Lake Bible Camp is a fun way to enjoy the summer doing outside activities and meet new friends.

There are different types of full-week and half-week camps based on age, as well as, some themed camps for older youth.

—<https://www.gllm.org/summer-camp.html>



# COUNCIL UPDATES

Stewardship & Finance: As God blessed Messiah once again in 2023, we've started off with an excellent January in 2024. We increased our budget by \$10,000 (3%) for the year to \$370,000. Our contributions, including those given in 2023 for the benefit of 2024, put us at 11% of budget compared to 13% in the past.

The 2024 Messiah council had its first meeting on February 11th. Following committee reports and liaison assignments, Pastor Tim presented the council with the names for the transition team. These were approved by the council. Pastor Tim also requested that the church set up a Zoom acct for virtual meetings when people are out of town. This was also approved by the council. We also discussed starting to form the call committee. Council also approved our local benevolence distribution for January, February and March.

Next council meeting will be on March 10th at 12:00 pm.

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

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



## Scholarship Application Information

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.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR RECIPIENTS

- Must be a confirmed member of Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Have completed the required volunteer hours in the church or community, within 4 years prior to application.

Two tiers currently available:

25+ volunteer hours over 4 years = \$250 distributed each post-secondary year

50+ volunteer hours over 4 years = \$500 distributed each post-secondary year

- Be attending an accredited college, university, or technical college.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR SECOND—FOURTH YEAR RECIPIENTS

SECOND—Write a 250-500 word statement highlighting what you like about Messiah Lutheran Church and any suggestions on how to make the church experience more rewarding.

THIRD—Write a 250-500 word faith statement that discusses how you have seen God working in your life and how you believe God will continue to work in your life in the future.

FOURTH—Write a 250-500 word statement highlighting how you intend to ensure your faith walk remains a priority in your life. For example, if you are moving away you might focus on your process for searching out a new church home. Or, how would you incorporate your faith in your career path. Please feel free to answer in your own way how your faith walk will continue.

### PROCESS

- Submit application & volunteer form or essay by March 1, 2024 to the office or a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- 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>

## March/April 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!

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
<b>3/3</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Greg Ous & Steve Jones <b>Reader:</b> Steve Lenz <b>Comm:</b> Janet Jones & Linda Wenkel <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Dave Dahl & Karla Elmore Shirley Rosenau Marlene Buker & Darci Karau TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>3/10</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Greg Ous & Steve Jones <b>Reader:</b> Amy Soost <b>Comm:</b> Marilyn Hanson & Mike Hanson <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Dave Dahl & Mark Gulden Jeff Pribyl Dee Nolan & Sheryl Gulden TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>3/17</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Steve Lenz & Chuck Dulas <b>Reader:</b> Linda Wenkel <b>Comm:</b> Diane Halvorson & Cheryl Christofferson <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Bill Halstead & Dayle Moore Lisa Benson Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>3/24</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Steve Lenz & Chuck Dulas <b>Reader:</b> Sonja Parr-Baker <b>Comm:</b> Deb Leiferman & Marilyn Hanson <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Bill Halstead & Dayle Moore Kay Lund Deb & Frank Steichen TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>3/31</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>Ushers:</b> Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman <b>Reader:</b> Renee Guyer <b>Comm:</b> Amy & Jeremy Soost <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Dayle Moore & Karla Elmore Marlene Buker Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
<b>4/7</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg <b>Reader:</b> Chuck Dulas <b>Comm:</b> Sarah & Greg Suskovic <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman Joan Klanderud Lisa Benson & Gina Henkelman TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>4/14</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg <b>Reader:</b> Georgia Holmes <b>Comm:</b> Jane & Paul Zweig <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman April Rosendale Jodi Himmer & Marlene Buker TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>4/21</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman <b>Reader:</b> Janet Jones <b>Comm:</b> Elaine Fossen & Steve Lenz <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Lucette Hurley Jan Waller & Swede Mundell TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
<b>4/28</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman <b>Reader:</b> Greg Suskovic <b>Comm:</b> Janet Jones & Al Narveson <b>FB Live:</b> TBD (call office if interested) <b>Screens:</b> TBD (call office if interested)	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Julie Olson Betty & Chuck Rafferty TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 am 4th Grade / First Communion Retreat 2:00 pm Private Event
<b>3</b> <i>Transition Team @ Worship</i> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am First Communion Cups 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b> 2:00 pm Private Event	<b>4</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>5</b> 11:30 am Messiah Monthly Luncheon  1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5-8:00 pm Scout Meeting 5:30 pm Transition Team	<b>6</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper <b>6:30 pm LENT Worship</b> 7:00 pm MSM Small Groups 7:00 pm 8th Grade Student/ Parent Meeting	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Mtg	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Transition Team @ Worship</i> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b> 12:00 pm Council Meeting 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Transition Team	<b>13</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper <b>6:30 pm LENT Worship</b> 7:00 pm MSM Small Groups	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Transition Team @ Worship</i> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Crossroads Food Prep 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Soup Supper <b>6:30 pm LENT Worship</b> 7:00 pm MSM Small Groups	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>22</b> 4:00 pm Private Event	<b>23</b> Private Event Done at 10:00 am
<b>24</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY &amp; FIRST COMMUNION</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm No Evening Activities	<b>28</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners <b>6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship</b>	<b>29</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>6:30 pm Good Friday Worship</b>	<b>30</b> 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections
<b>31</b> <b>EASTER</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:15 am Easter Breakfast 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am <b>Worship w/ band</b>	<b>April 1</b> <b>EASTER MONDAY</b> <b>Office Closed</b>					



Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Boulevard  
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*

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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, Brooke, Cheryl, Darrell, Diana, Jeff

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

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

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

**Prayers for safe travels:** Lauren

## 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.