



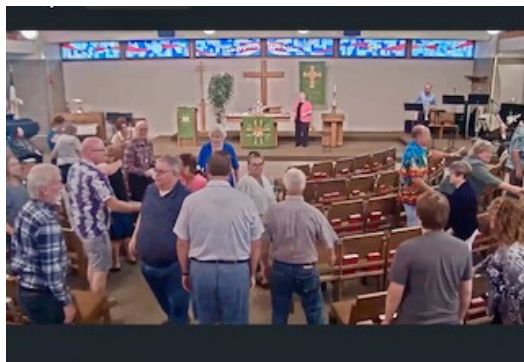
MESSIAH  
lutheran church  
*Sharing the love of Jesus*

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

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

One of my spiritual practices is gratitude. In meetings, conversations, at the end of the day, in working on projects, and solving problems, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I like to reflect on what is a cause for gratitude.

I am grateful in two particular ways as I reflect on our worship life over the past month. First, I was delighted to meet some new (to me) folks who are typically with us online, who came in person this last month. I appreciate the face-to-face contact and connection. I hope that you found being in the sanctuary, with the worshipping with the in-person community to be a blessing. I look forward to seeing you again!



I am also grateful for you and your openness and receptivity to the changes in the seating arrangement in our sanctuary. You have adjusted to it well and with a marvelous spirit of joy. We're still working out some details as we live into this new arrangement, but over all it is meeting some of the goals for moving to the new seating.

Our sanctuary was built for a worshipping community of 350+ people. With three worship opportunities (September - May), rarely do we have a service attendance anywhere near that amount. That resulted in a scattered community when we gathered, with people worshipping more as individuals, than as a whole community. The semicircle of seats now creates a visual area in which people are asked to sit, although seating along the sides is still available for those whose worship is better experienced from there. My hope, though, is that all can find a place in the semicircle.

It has been really quite lovely to watch most of you find your "place" in the new seating arrangement. One of the things I see happening is a movement towards the middle of the semicircle. Looking at you from the front, I can almost feel a literal centrifugal force, drawing us together as a community. We can hear each other sing and speak the responses. We can see each other and have eye contact with each other. Have you noticed we naturally take more time to share the peace. I think that's because we feel more like a community and we want to share that wonderful greeting with many.

And that makes me wonder.... What is the Holy Spirit up to in our community of faith by drawing us physically and relationally closer together in our worship? How might that affect who we are and how we are in the ministries we undertake together?

I invite you over these next couple of months to be more aware of that spiritual force at work when we gather for worship. Be aware of how you experience the Spirit at work in worship and communal life. And, I'd love it if you would share with me what you become aware of.

Gratefully,

*Pastor LaDonna*

NEWSLETTER

JULY  
2026

## Gather

For adults of all ages seeking more social interaction, join us weekly on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** for coffee and a free will offering lunch. If you need a ride, contact Barb Meier.

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, GATHER celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday. The group had a great time socializing and having lunch.



## Council Updates

2026 council members: Nate Brekke, Joanna Petersen, Jean Zandstra, Katie Hendrickson, Swede Mundell, Julie Olsen, Jodi Himmer, and Janet Jones.

Total income for May was \$21,843.29. That is the total for five Sundays. Total expenses were \$27,530.10, resulting in expenses over income by \$5,686.81. Year to date income was \$156,603.38 and year to date expenses were \$151,540.19 resulting in income over expenses by \$5,063.19. If the remaining 7 months of the prepaid contributions were removed expenses would be over income by approx. \$6,800.00.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 13th at 5:30 pm. -

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code:
2. or 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.





## 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 8 - Sunday, July 12th.

Individuals ages 13+ 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.

There's just over 1 week before the fun begins, please consider signing up to help fill the remaining slots. Simply scan the QR code or click the following link: <https://signup.com/go/iOoGrRj>.



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.

## Blood Drive



**American Red Cross**

Community of Giving



*Be a part of the  
lifesaving cause.*

**Tuesday, August 25th**  
**1:00-6:00 pm**  
**Messiah Lutheran**

## Job Opening

**Messiah Lutheran Church is hiring a Director of Youth Ministry**  
 part-time - approximately 10 hours/week

If you....
 

- \*connect well with youth (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- \* have a presence that exudes hospitality, welcome, joy and graceful living
- \* like to plan and lead youth activities that are fun and engaging
- \* find joy in nurturing the spiritual growth of youth....

 We'd love to talk with you!



Use QR code to see job description.  
 or go to [messiahnorthmankato.com](http://messiahnorthmankato.com)



Submit a cover letter and resume by  
 July 10<sup>th</sup> to  
 Pastor LaDonna Thomas  
[pastor@messiahnorthmankato.com](mailto:pastor@messiahnorthmankato.com)



Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Boulevard  
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

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

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

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www.messiahnorthmankato.com



*Sharing the Love of Jesus*

## Prayer List

**Health & Healing Requests:** Mollie, Clara, Nancy, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Cory, Brian, Loren, Kim P, Brooks

**On-going Prayer Needs:** Craig, Earl, Neal, Heather, Greg, Jackie, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya, Sandie

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

**Prayers for the asylum-seeking family the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.**

**Prayers of sympathy** for Debra and Frank Steichen, on the death of Debra's brother, Lowell Pearson.

**Prayers of sympathy** for Frank and Debra Steichen, on the death of Frank's brother-in-law, Dennis Witucki.

### **BRIAN STOCKLAND MEMORIAL SERVICE UPDATE**

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 1st at 10:00 am, with a visitation from 9-10 am, lunch will be served following the service.



#### **Change in Messiah Communication**

Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events. If you previously received our "What's Up" email, you will need to "opt" in to receive the new weekly message. Guests are invited to sign-up as well.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/mb3YWRp/messiah>

## July-August 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!

| <b>July</b>   |                                                                  | <b>8:30 AM</b>                                                                          | <b>10:30 AM</b>                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7/5</b>    | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Steve Jones & Kyle Vogt<br>Linda Wenkel<br>Marilyn Hanson & Mary Borth                  | Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer<br>Bernie Latulippe<br>Jodi Himmer & Gina Henkelman    |
| <b>7/12</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Greg Guyer & Kyle Vogt<br>Renee Guyer<br>Carl & Kathy Fitzloff                          | Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer<br>Eva Borneke<br>Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler            |
| <b>7/19</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman<br>Myra Kluck<br>Jeremy & Amy Soost                       | Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath<br>Joan Klanderud<br>Jim & Marlene Jilek            |
| <b>7/26</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman<br>Georgia Holmes<br>Breah Hendrickson &<br>Deb Leiferman | Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath<br>Shirley Rosenau<br>Chuck & Betty Rafferty        |
| <b>August</b> |                                                                  | <b>8:30 AM</b>                                                                          | <b>10:30 AM</b>                                                                  |
| <b>8/2</b>    | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman<br>Sonja Parr-Baker<br>Scott & Sylvia Norman                  | Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman<br>Lynn Klaber<br>Mark & Jodi Himmer                |
| <b>8/9</b>    | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman<br>Sarah Suskovic<br>Steve & Janet Jones                      | Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman<br>April Rosendale<br>Sheryl Gulden & Jane Unzeitig |
| <b>8/16</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson<br>Greg Suskovic<br>Linda Wenkel & Al Narveson                | Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad<br>Sandy Hatlestad<br>Peter & Phyllis Skadahll     |
| <b>8/23</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson<br>Steve Lenz<br>Greg & Sarah Suskovic                        | Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad<br>Jan Waller<br>Lynn Klaber & Lynelle Harms       |
| <b>8/30</b>   | <b>Ushers:</b><br><b>Reader:</b><br><b>Communion Assistants:</b> | Scott Madigan & Steve Jones<br>Janet Jones<br>Greg & Renee Guyer                        | Peter Skadahll & Steve Carlberg<br>Karen Wright<br>Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes     |

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.

# July 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                      | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                                                                  | Friday                                                                                         | Saturday                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                             |         | 1<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch                                                                                       | 2<br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                                                      | 3 CLOSED @ 12 pm                                                                               | 4<br>  |
| 5<br>8:30 am <b>Worship</b><br>10:30 am <b>Worship</b>                                                                                          | 6<br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br>10:30 am Social Outreach                         | 7       | 8<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch<br> | 9<br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br> | 10 CLOSED<br> | 11<br> |
| 12<br>8:30 am <b>Worship</b><br>10:30 am <b>Worship</b><br> | 13<br>9:00 am SAIL Group<br>1:00 pm Worship Team<br>5:30 pm Council Meeting | 14      | 15<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch                                                                                      | 16<br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                                                     | 17 CLOSED @ 12 pm                                                                              | 18                                                                                      |
| 19<br>8:30 am <b>Worship</b><br>10:30 am <b>Worship</b>                                                                                         | 20<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                    | 21      | 22<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch                                                                                      | 23<br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                                                     | 24 CLOSED                                                                                      | 25                                                                                      |
| 26<br>8:30 am <b>Worship</b><br>10:30 am <b>Worship</b>                                                                                         | 27<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                    | 28      | 29<br>10:30 am GATHER & Lunch                                                                                      | 30<br>7:30 am Men's Bible Study<br>9:00 am SAIL Group                                                                                     | 31 CLOSED @ 12 pm                                                                              | August 1<br>Brian Stockland<br>Memorial Service<br>9:00 – Visitation<br>10:00 – Service |