



MESSIAH
lutheran church

Sharing the love of Jesus

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

messiahnorthmankato.com

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

In addition to the wonderful people of Messiah, one of the things that attracted me to Minnesota is the rich heritage of music that is here and in the upper Midwest. I have a deep appreciation and love of choral music and I knew a move to a place like Mankato would put me in the midst of amazing college, university, community choirs, and The National Lutheran Choir (based in the Twin Cities). I have joined a local community choir, The Minnesota Valley Chorale.

Thanks to modern technology, some of these musical groups have an online presence and I can listen to some concerts from the comfort of my own home, often while doing other projects around the house or working from home. I have taken advantage of those opportunities, especially for those concerts that require driving a distance or when there is inclement weather.

However, I recently experienced some of the limitations of the online concerts when I attended a concert in Northfield that featured both the St. Olaf Choir and the National Lutheran Choir. I was there, in-person, hearing the same concert as those online at home, but not really experiencing the same thing at all.

There was a difference the moment I walked into the chapel where the concert was being held. About a third of the way from the front stood someone who I had met just a few days earlier when she attended worship at Messiah. I stopped by to say: "hi" to her and she invited me to sit with her and her friend. I immediately became part of a little group sharing the same experience together.

One of the gifts of attending a concert on a college campus is the great mixture of ages that are present. There are students, parents, grandparents, 3-4 generations gathered in one place. There aren't many places where that still happens. So, there was a youthful energy in the room as they cheered for their beloved conductor and friends they knew in the choir. If I had stayed home and watched the concert online, there would have been 1 generation present: just me. How much richer and engaging it was to be in the room with others.

All of that and the choirs had not even begun to sing! And when they did sing, their voices filled the chapel and resonated in a way that was not present when I later listened to the online recording. The greatest beauty, the fullest sound, and the intricacies of harmony and dissonance could only be fully experienced in person. I noticed, too, how focused my attention was on the singers and their music. If I had been viewing it online, I know I would have been multitasking and checking emails or social media. I would have missed so much.

That experience of attending an in-person concert makes me wonder how it might apply to the differences between worshipping in-person and worshipping online. I am very grateful the technology exists to stream worship online. We know it is a blessing for many, especially those whose health or access to transportation keeps them close to home or those who have to work on Sunday mornings. I am grateful for those who are part of our online community. As I say most Sundays, "Wherever we are for worship, we are the church together."

But for those who worship online who are still mobile, with no limiting health concerns, lack of transportation, or those who do not work on Sunday, a lot can be missed by worshipping online: seeing a friendly, familiar face; someone to sit with and share in the worship experience; garnering the energy of younger people or the wisdom of the elder; the way live music fills the room; the sound of a gifted singer whose sound comes from deep in their soul; and, the connection to the larger faith community. Much of that we just can't experience sitting in front of a computer screen.

The contrasting experiences of watching a concert online and in-person has renewed my commitment and intention to make the effort to attend in-person. It can be inconvenient. It means leaving the comfort of my home and couch and traveling some distance, but I've experienced the gift that comes with that effort, and it's worth it.

If you are part of our online community and you are not limited by health, transportation, or work schedules, perhaps my experiences can be an invitation to you to also experience our worship life in-person. Perhaps you will find it to be a fuller, richer, spiritually deepening experience for your life of faith.

Gratefully, *Pastor LaDonna*

NEWSLETTER

JUNE
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.

Happy Birthday



GATHER

Help us celebrate GATHER's 1st Birthday

Wednesday, June 3rd from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Enjoy music, lunch, cake, and door prizes

RSVP by Friday, May 29th

Congregational Book Read - Celebration Potluck

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

*End of Book
Celebration POTLUCK
for An Altar in the
World!*



Monday, June 8 • 6:00 pm • Messiah

Please come regardless of whether you bring something or not; there will be plenty to eat. RSVP to Janet Jones at 507-340-7093 | jonesjan12@gmail.com or the list at church or just show up!

Fair Trade Tea Event

The Fair Trade Tea will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 27th at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$20. The organizer inquired about the possibility of a Messiah table. We would need 6-7 interested people for a table. Please contact Lynn Klaber for more information: 5071-380-5465 or lynnklaber@hmail.com.

Summertime Outreach Meal Program (STOMP)

Messiah is partnering with Feeding Our Community Partners(FOCP) as a distribution site for their Summertime Outreach Meal Program (STOMP). Monday – Friday, 12:00 – 12:35 p.m., May 26-September 4 FOCP will be onsite to distribute free meals to youth under the age of 18.

Sanctuary Updates

Your seat is still here... it just might be in a little different place! We are blessed to have a flexible, movable worship space. You'll find a new semi-circle arrangement of chairs to help us build a greater sense of community in our worship life. Please be patient and open as we all find our places in this new arrangement. Thanks to the amazing volunteers that helped with the move.



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.

As you look at your summer calendars, consider signing up for a shift or two. It is great fun. Sign-ups coming in June.

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.

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 April was \$36,396.44 and total expenses were \$31,255.00 -- resulting in income over expenses by \$5,141.44. Year to date total income was \$134,760.09 and year to date expenses were \$124,010.09. Resulting in income over expenses by \$10,750.00. Please remember the income includes the prepaid for 2026 - the 8 remaining months would lower the year-to-date income by \$13,492 - so we're also \$3,000.00 behind for 2026.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15th at 5:30 pm. -

Thrivent Choice Dollars Update

Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available at any time throughout the year. If you have not accessed your choice dollars for 2026, we encourage you to log into your Thrivent account and follow the links for designating choice dollars. For more information you can also contact your Thrivent financial advisor.

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.



Congratulations Class of 2026

The Messiah family wishes these graduates all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Name: Charlie Bobholz

Parents: Joshua and Kristina Bobholz

Siblings: Steven

Favorite Class: Math

High School Activities: Football and Choir

Favorite Show: Invincible

Favorite Book: Hunger Games

Favorite Song: Circles by Post Malone

Who is your hero?: My dad

Describe yourself with 3 words: kind, caring, empathetic

Future Plans: Play football at St. Olaf



Name: Lucas Hamerski

Parents: Kelly and Dustin Runkle

Siblings: Ashley, Jaxson, and Tyler

Favorite Class: Accounting

Favorite Show: Invincible

Favorite Book: 1984

Favorite Song: Things to Do by Zach Top

Who is your hero?: Batman

Describe yourself with 3 words: loud, energetic, funny

Future Plans: Make money



Name: Gwen Hanson

Parents: Mike and Victoria Hanson

Siblings: Arthur

Favorite Class: Psychology

High School Activities: Dance and Golf

Favorite Movie: The Greatest Showman

Favorite Book: Harry Potter

Favorite Song: Beige by Yoke Lore

Who is your hero?: My dad

Describe yourself with 3 words: funny, beautiful, amazing

Future Plans: Attend Arizona State University



Name: Malia Karau

Parents: Jon and Darci Karau

Siblings: Jeran

Favorite Class: Parks and Recreation

High School Activities: Theater and Speech

Describe yourself with 3 words: creative, determined, passionate

Future Plans: Attend MSU Mankato for degree in Recreation and Parks Leadership Studies with a certificate in Tourism and Event Management



Name: Gracia Lagred

Parents: Nathan and Juanita Lagred

Siblings: Malia and Donovan

Favorite Class: Personal Finance

High School Activities: Hope Squad and Concert Choir

Favorite Movie: Hunger Games

Favorite Book: It Ends with Us

Favorite Song: Pursuit of Happiness by Kid Cudi

Who is your hero?: My dad

Describe yourself with 3 words: honest, kind, thoughtful

Future Plans: Attend North Dakota State University



Name: Hannah Schwamberger

Parents: Michelle and Dan Schwamberger

Siblings: William

Favorite Class: Art

High School Activities: American Heritage Girls

Favorite Book: Any Steven Spielberg book

Describe yourself with 3 words: kind, quiet

Future Plans: Join the work force



Not Pictured: Kaid Maxwell and Jaxson Parker

Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations to the following youth who were confirmed Sunday, May 3rd: Brendon Brekke, Kael DeSutter, Kambrie Konz, Emmy Nelson, Isiah Rogers, Willow Scholtens, Collin Sletten, Brynn True



Messiah Senior Lunch Group

This monthly lunch will take a summer break from June through August. We will begin meeting again in September.

Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday bible study group will be taking a summer break and will be back again in September.

Thursday Men's Bible Study

This men's bible study group continues to meet at Happy Chef every Thursday morning at 7:30 am. Join them anytime.

June-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!

June		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
6/7	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Greg Suskovic Linda Wenkel & Elaine Fossen	Jim Jilek & Dave Dahl Kay Lund Doug & Karna Stock
6/14	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Kim Henrickson Greg & Renee Guyer	Jim Jilek & Dayle Moore Lucette Hurley, Eva Borneke Kara Pipes & Lauren Pipes
6/21	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Guyer & Rande Bowman Sonja Parr-Baker Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Chuck Rafferty & Bob Rothenbuehler April Rosendale Dee Nolan & Swede Mundell
6/28	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Jones & Rande Bowman Janet Jones Paul & Jane Zwiieg	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Julie Olsen Frank & Debra Steichen
July		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
7/5	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Jones & Kyle Vogt Linda Wenkel Marilyn Hanson & Mary Borth	Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer Bernie Latulippe Lisa Benson & Gina Henkelman
7/12	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Guyer & Kyle Vogt Renee Guyer Carl & Kathy Fitzloff	Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer Eva Borneke Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler
7/19	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Myra Kluck Jeremy & Amy Soost	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Joan Klanderud Jim & Marlene Jilek
7/26	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Georgia Holmes Breah Hendrickson & Deb Leiferman	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Shirley Rosenau Chuck & Betty Rafferty
August		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
8/2	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Diane Halvorson Scott & Sylvia Norman	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman Lynn Klaber Mark & Jodi Himmer
8/9	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Sarah Suskovic Steve & Janet Jones	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman April Rosendale Sheryl Gulden & Jane Unzeitig
8/16	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Greg Suskovic Linda Wenkel & Al Narveson	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Peter & Phyllis Skadahl
8/23	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Steve Lenz Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Jan Waller Lynn Klaber & Lynelle Harms
8/30	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Scott Madigan & Steve Jones Janet Jones Greg & Renee Guyer	Peter Skadahl & Steve Carlberg Karen Wright Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Social Outreach	2	3 10:30 am GATHER's 1st Birthday Celebration 	4 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	5 CLOSED @ 12 pm	6
7 PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	8 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Worship Team 6:00 pm Book Club Potluck	9 9 am-3 pm Private Event 6:00 pm Private Event	10 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	11 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	12 CLOSED @ 12 pm	13
14 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	15 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:30 pm Council Meeting	16	17 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	18 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	19 CLOSED @ 12 pm	20
21 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	22 9:00 am SAIL Group	23	24 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	25 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	26 CLOSED @ 12 pm	27
28 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	29 9:00 am SAIL Group	30				



Messiah Lutheran Church
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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, Steve, Sandie, Lowell

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 to Marlene Buker and family on the death of her Aunt Dorothy.

Prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of Brian Stockland.

Prayers of sympathy to the family and friends of Tyson Goodsell.

Summer Worship Times and Church Office Hours

Our worship committee has decided to keep our summer Sunday worship times consistent with the rest of the year:
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The office will be open Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30 and closed Friday afternoons for the summer.



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>