



MESSIAH
lutheran church
Sharing the love of Jesus

February 2024

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

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 12:30 - 5:30 pm

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, February 1st. There are appointment openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

Sign up at: www.redcrossblood.org Code: MESSIAHKATOMN

Messiah Lunch Group

You are invited to join us for the February Messiah Lunch Group on **Monday, February 5th** at 11:30 am at Olive Garden in Mankato. If you plan to join us, please call the church office at 387-5537 or email us at

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'll read *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. **We're meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 and the next one is February 7th.** We are also planning a trip for a Sacred Sites Tour next spring and a visit to the Pow Wow next September. More information to come. Contact Sonja and Briana Parr-Baker at sonjaparr@gmail.com with any questions.

As part of our focus on indigenous cultures, there will be a quilt on display in the narthex which was made for Messiah by members of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota. The quilt was presented in 1997 and honored the relationship, begun in the 1980's, between the Lakota community and Messiah.

Quilting

Quilting has begun. It is always great coming back together to resume our work and fellowship once again. Starting January 9th, 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 387-6172.



Midweek Lenten Services

Lenten activities begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, with soup supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. Lenten Wednesday 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>

Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Crossroads: Tuesday, February 20th—Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex on February 11th.

Connections: Thursday, February 29th—Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex mid-February.

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.



A Fresh Start—Collecting Until February 11th

A Fresh Start provides new home essentials for those emerging from homelessness. The white donation box will be out in the narthex for those who want to contribute.



A FRESH START

Items We Give Our Clients

- Can Opener
- Plates/bowls
- Lamp
- Strainer
- Drinking Glasses
- Cutting Board
- Kitchen Knives
- Silverware
- Booster
- Chair/High Chair
- Laundry Basket
- Toilet Bowl Brush
- Broom and Dust Pan
- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Shower Curtain and Hooks
- Sheets
- Comforter or blanket
- Kitchen Towels
- Measuring Cups and Spoons
- Spatula
- Mixing Spoon
- Food Storage Containers
- Pots/Pans
- Hot Pad
- Garbage Cans
- Lamps
- Light Bulbs
- Toilet Paper
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Cleanser(s) – multi surface
- Saran Wrap
- Garbage Bags
- Ziploc Bags
- Shower Gel
- Dish Soap/Dishwasher Soap
- Hand Soap
- Laundry Soap
- Hangers
- Plungers
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Gift Card for 1st meal
- Kleenex
- Baking Sheet
- Cake Pan
- Extension Cord
- Beverage Pitcher
- Toaster
- Pizza Cutter
- Mattress Pad
- Bath Mat

We rely on 75% of what we give our clients to come from donations and the other 25% to be purchased with cash donations.



ECHO Food Shelf Drive

Messiah is supporting **Minnesota Food Share** and asking for monetary and food donations to be collected for ECHO starting February 18th through the end of March. Bring donations of food to church or consider making a cash donation. Simply put Food Drive in the memo portion of your check and drop it off or mail it to Messiah.

- A Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -

Dear Partners in Christ:

“So, what are you going to do now that you don’t have to do anything?”

Professor Gerhard O. Forde taught Reformation Studies to a generation of students at Luther Seminary. After clearly articulating that salvation is a gift from God (which we cannot do anything to earn or deserve), Dr. Forde would ask his students, “So what are you going to do now that you don’t have to do anything?”

I believe that this is a question worth contemplating as we observe Lent in 2024. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and continuing through five Wednesdays in Lent (concluding on March 20), we will explore some answers to Forde’s question. Here is the outline:

From Salvation to Sanctity: The Way of the Cross for 21st Century Christians

Subtitle: What are you going to do now that you don’t have to do anything to be saved?

Ash Wednesday Worship	2/14/24	Turn Around
Lent Wednesday Worship 1	2/21/24	Salvation
Lent Wednesday Worship 2	2/28/24	Church
Lent Wednesday Worship 3	3/6/24	Call to Discipleship
Lent Wednesday Worship 4	3/13/24	The Will of God
Lent Wednesday Worship 5	3/20/24	Sanctity

Each Wednesday (after Ash Wednesday) we will sing Marty Haugen’s beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer*. In the midst of the meaningful Vespers liturgy, we will turn to the overarching question, “What are you going to do now?” Our focus begins with the gift of Salvation, moves to consideration of the meaning of Church in our daily lives, then considers Jesus’ call to all the baptized to take up the cross of Discipleship, then explores God’s desire that we do what we pray (“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – Lord’s Prayer), and concludes with St. Paul’s admonition: “This is the will of God: your Sanctification” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

While this may sound “heady,” it is important that the post-Pandemic church consider these subjects. Many people want to know what is it that God is asking of us after God has saved us. I invite you to set aside these Wednesdays (6:30 p.m.) in this Lent 2024 to consider Who is God calling us to be? and What is God calling us to do? I really hope to see you there.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Tim

Transition Team Plan / Call Process Update

The Transition Team (whose primary focus is to enable the Messiah community to articulate our strengths, weaknesses, and ministry opportunities) will be established in early February. The Transition Team will interact with congregational members to enable the publication of the Ministry Site Profile (affirmed by the congregation on May 19) which will be made available to all pastors interested in serving Messiah.

The Call Committee will be appointed by the Church Council in mid-April. Having received (May) a list of potential candidates (who meet our desires and expectations as presented in the MSP), the Call Committee will select several candidates to interview in June and July. Second interviews with highly qualified candidates will occur in July and August. A preferred candidate will be presented to the congregation at a Call Meeting in August or September. If the congregation votes to call that pastor, he or she will arrive in September or October.

Please pray for both the Transition Team and the Call Committee. This is spiritual work.

Pastor Tim

Sunday School

4th Graders First Communion Retreat

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, March 2, 2024**. On **Sunday, March 3rd**, students will want to be sure to come to Sunday School to paint their communion cups. If you have a family member, 4th grade or older, who didn't get a chance to participate in a retreat previously, they are welcome to come. Contact the office to register by January 26th. First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24th. (FYI for ISD77 families, spring break is March 25-29th.)

Middle School Ministries

All MSM Students—Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. On this evening, come for a soup dinner at 5:30 pm and worship to follow at 6:30 pm. There will be no MSM large or small group on Ash Wednesday. From February 21st—March 20th, the schedule will be 5:30 soup dinner, 6:30 worship, 7:00 MSM small group.

8th Grade Affirmation Students—More information will be coming soon regarding plans for activities leading up to Affirmation. Mark your calendars for Affirmation Sunday on April 28th.

Last Sunday Sessions

High School youth ... keep watch for more information on an early spring Last Sunday Session. If you have any fun suggestions for activities you and your friends would like to participate in, please contact the church office at messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com.

Scholarship Application Information

This will be the second year in which the congregation of 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. The scholarship is a \$250 award, renewable for up to four years/\$1000 total.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR RECIPIENTS

- Must be a confirmed member of Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Have completed 25 hours of volunteer work in the church or community. See list of approved activities.
- Be attending an accredited college, university, or technical college.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECOND YEAR RECIPIENTS

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

PROCESS

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

COUNCIL UPDATES

Stewardship & Finance: Another giant thank you to all members and friends of Messiah who pledged and/or contributed to our mission and it's wonderful ministries! We ended 2023 at 99.8% of budget. However, our expenses did outpace donations by \$9737, mainly due to our snow removal costs being \$8000 more than the previous year.

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 preceded by a light luncheon. There was discussion of old and new business as well as council and other churchwide positions were voted on. The annual meeting had not yet taken place at the time of this printing, so we'll update you on decisions in the March newsletter.

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.



Crossroads Campus Ministry—Thank You

Time sure flies. We can't believe that we're already at the start of Spring Term at MSU-Mankato! We feel blessed to have Messiah Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed hungry students through our Lunch For-a-Buck program. We were pleased to welcome your volunteers on Tuesday, January 9, when Lori & Don Waylett and Joanna Petersen served a hearty lunch of beef and vegetarian chili, French bread, and assorted bars to 52 hungry lunch-goers. They also collected \$42.48 in donations that will be used to purchase the salad supplies, beverages, paper plates, dinnerware, and other items for lunches during Spring Term. We look forward to seeing you at your next Lunch For-a-Buck on February 20, 2024. God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

Crossroads Campus Ministry

Thursday Evening Bible Study

The Thursday evening Bible study begins at 5:00 pm each week. This group welcomes new members at any time! We use a video based curriculum which means we watch a video together – usually about 20 minutes in length, and then discuss what we've heard and learned. There is no prep or homework involved! This winter study is titled "Biblical Stewardship: Our Duty and Delight". Mark Allan Powell will guide participants to a clearer understanding of what it means to be a steward responding to God.

Join us at any time at the home of Greg & Sarah Suskovic: 2005 Roe Crest Drive, North Mankato. Call Greg (507-612-875-6636) or Sarah (612-214-0116) with any questions or if you need directions.

Worship Opportunities

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.

February/March 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>
2/4	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic FB Live: Malia Karau Screens: Jeran Karau	Peter Skadahl & Tim Hatlestad TBD Lisa Benson & Sheryl Gulden TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
2/11	Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Les Altenburg Reader: Linda Wenkel Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Peter Skadahl & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
2/18	Ushers: Rande Bowman & Scott Madigan Reader: Sarah Suskovic Comm: Elaine Fossen & Marilyn Hanson FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath April Rosendale Jodi Himmer & Gina Henkelman TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
2/25	Ushers: Rande Bowman & Scott Madigan Reader: Chuck Dulas Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Eva Borneke Jan Waller & Swede Mundell TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
3/3	Ushers: Greg Ous & Steve Jones Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Janet Jones & Linda Wenkel FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Dave Dahl & Mark Gulden Shirley Rosenau Phyllis & Peter Skadahl TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
3/10	Ushers: Greg Ous & Steve Jones Reader: Amy Soost Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Mike Hanson FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: 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)
3/17	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Chuck Dulas Reader: TBD Comm: Diane Halvorson & Cheryl Christofferson FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Steve Carlberg & Amos Tokheim Lisa Benson Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
3/24	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Chuck Dulas Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Deb Leiferman & Marilyn Hanson FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Steve Carlberg & Amos Tokheim Kay Lund Deb & Frank Steichen TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
3/31	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman Reader: Renee Guyer Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Dayle Moore & Karla Elmore Marlene Buker Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 12:30-5:30 pm Blood Drive 5:00 pm Bible Study	2	3
4 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ band	5 9:00 am SAIL Group 11:30 am Messiah Monthly Lunchers	6 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5-8:00 pm Scout Meeting	7 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Mtg 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	9	10
11 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ band	12 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting	13 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Ash Wed Worship 7:00 pm NO MSM Class-time	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	16	17
18 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ band	19 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Crossroads Food Prep	20 10:45 Crossroads Delivery 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	21 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm LENT Worship 7:00 pm MSM Small Groups	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	23	24
25 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ band	26 9:00 am SAIL Group	27 9:30 am Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	28 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm LENT Worship 7:00 pm MSM Small Groups	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections		



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 1

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

PRAYER list

Thoughts and Prayers: Carolyn, Kathy, Rosie, Jeanette, Elle, Brooke

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

Prayers of Sympathy for Kris & Josh Bobholz & family on the death of Kris' grandmother, Joyce Rossow.

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.