



April 2022

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

The Spirit of Connection
- A Message from Pastor Trish -

Last month, some of your council members attended a SEMN Synod leadership event with the theme, “The Spirit of Connection”. A variety of connections were presented and discussed – from connection through stewardship to connecting with children, neighboring congregations, the community or the world.

One of the undercurrents of the afternoon that I kept hearing in conversation was about the ways in which congregational connections have changed. Churches everywhere have changed dramatically over the last two years, and everyone wonders what that means and what the future holds. One of the places where this change has been felt most dramatically is in worship itself. Initially, how we worshipped changed when everything moved online; personal worship habits changed as well. While many members have returned to the building and to weekly in-person worship, many have not. There are numerous reasons for this change, but I don’t think those reasons are as important as the “spirit of connection” itself.

I miss some of the connections that seem to be missing as a result of changed worshipping habits. I miss making my own connections and watching the connections Messiah folks make with one another. I miss opportunities to share the Good News. I miss opportunities to offer a word of solace or encouragement for the hard days, and miss sharing one another’s joys on the best days. Don’t misunderstand – those things all still happen, but how and when and how often has changed.

I also worry. Maybe worry is too strong of a word, but I keep thinking that the church should have and does have something to offer to help us all navigate these challenging times in which we live, and I used to think that worship was a good way to make that happen. But I don’t know if that’s the case anymore, and I don’t yet know of a better alternative.

As a result, I’m not sure what the best way is to be your pastor these days. And I think that’s true, whether I have the privilege of seeing you every week or if it’s been a long time since we last connected. (Don’t worry, I’m going to keep trying to figure it out!)

All of this is really to just state the obvious: that our “spirit of connection” is as important now as it ever was, and I pledge to keep working to nurture and encourage our connections with one another and with the larger world. I am also very grateful to the leaders and staff at Messiah who work with me to do this; who encourage me and one another to stay connected in and outside our walls. We all take this work very seriously.

Finally, I invite you to take a few moments to consider what a “spirit of connection” means for yourself. Are you satisfied with the connections you have right now, or are there old connections you miss, or new connections you want to make? Consider this a word of encouragement where ever you find yourself. And if you have been thinking about your worship habits and connections, I hope you’ll think about worship during Holy Week and the Easter season. It’s an important time for our faith connections, and we are working hard at Messiah to offer meaningful worship for all. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks for spending a little time contemplating the “spirit of connection” with me.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10:30 AM on April 10th. Along with our Lenten theme of “Good Enough” we will have palms, prayers and Holy Communion, including the celebration of First Communion for some of our 4th and 5th graders. We will end this service of celebration with a children’s time to help us prepare for “what happens next” as Holy Week commences.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 6:00 pm each night. Maundy Thursday (April 14) will include music with the Worship Band and monologues from several characters who were with Jesus on that last evening before his crucifixion, and Holy Communion will be offered. Good Friday (April 15) will be a special and solemn Tenebrae service as we remember those final events surrounding the cross.

Then, join us at 8:30 or 10:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 17th. We will gather and celebrate the Resurrection with music, scripture, prayers, Communion – and the return of the Easter Breakfast in-between worship services!

First Communion—April 10th (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 10th during both Palm Sunday worship marks a special day for some of our 4th and 5th grade students as they celebrate First Communion. Brendon Brekke, Willow Scholtens, Collin Sletten, Brynn True, and Brandon Stafford will be part of this special day. Kael DeSutter will celebrate First Communion in May.

Middle School Ministry—April 13th

Middle School Students will be wrapping up the year with a celebration on Wednesday, April 13th. Students from Gustavus Adolphus College will be leading us in worship, fun and fellowship as we celebrate our year together. Supper is at 5:30, with MSM beginning at 6 pm.

Spring Flowers for Easter

In keeping with one of Messiah’s traditions, we are once again asking members and friends, if they wish, to donate spring flowers for Easter Sunday. You may purchase any flower you wish-on your own-we do not take care of any orders. Please bring or have delivered to the church by Good Friday.



You can mark your plant if you wish and take it home after the Easter worships. A form is in the Narthex if you wish to name a person or persons who you would like to have flowers either ‘in memory of’ or ‘in honor of’. Return the completed form to the church office by Palm Sunday, April 10th.

Quilting 2022



April is the last month for the quilting group. More information to come on the blessing of the quilts. If you or someone you know, has an interest in free quilting books and patterns, please call one of the ladies below. Any questions, call Nancy 340-8494, Joan 389-9898, Kay 327-9789.



Get On The Beam

Habitat for Humanity of South Central MN is pleased to announce the return of "Get On The Beam", a great way for Messiah to help raise funds for their mission of building homes for local families in need. The beam will be available mid-April through mid-May. With any donation, you can sign the beam that will eventually become part of the framework of a Habitat home. Donations will be used toward the purchase of building materials or other needs of the Habitat organization.

Looking Ahead ...

Messiah Worships United—Our next Messiah Worships United service is scheduled for Sunday, May 29th at 10 am. This will be our first outdoor worship service for the season! Watch for a worship theme of "care of creation".

Outdoor Worship—As mentioned above, the first outdoor worship will be Sunday, May 29th for the Messiah Worships United at 10 am. Beginning in June, our early service will be indoors and our late service will be outside (weather permitting).

North Mankato Fun Days—We are excited to share that the 2022 Fun Days has been scheduled for July 6-10. Messiah will once again have the Pie & Brat Stand. Look for more information and volunteer opportunities in the coming months.

We are in search of someone with a pick-up with a 5th wheel attachment that would be able to haul of 40-foot trailer during the parade. Please call the office if this is something you could help with.

50th Anniversary—Make sure your calendar is marked for Sunday, July 31 as we celebrate 50 years of ministry at Messiah.



Crossroads Lunch for a Buck and The REACH

Crossroads Campus Ministry Lunch for A Buck is for students of all backgrounds and beliefs who need food to sustain them through challenging times. **The REACH Resource Center** supports youth who are at-risk, experiencing homelessness or have run away. Messiah is looking for volunteers for both of these programs. We'll make food for both Crossroads and The REACH at the same time. Volunteer opportunities include making food, delivering, serving, and donating money for food. If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a monetary donation to purchase the food.

Sign up to prepare, deliver and/or serve meals on Tuesday, April 19th—<https://signup.com/go/PtXPciW> You can also call the church office to sign up.

Lunch 4 a Buck “Thank You”

It is with joy and thanksgiving that Crossroads Campus Ministry offers its gratitude to Messiah Lutheran Church and the volunteers who prepared, delivered and served the mouth-watering hot meal of beef and vegetarian chili, bread and cookies to 34 hungry college students and faculty as part of our **Lunch 4 a Buck** program last Tuesday, March 22. Thank you to Barb & Denny Meier, Joanna Petersen and Britta Petersen for your service with a smile. You also helped to collect \$30.26 in donations that will assist us in purchasing the supplies we need to continue offering hot meals to students every Tuesday during the regular school year. God Bless you and the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church for supporting this important and impactful ministry!



A KIND Donation

These past two years have been difficult for educators. Let's show our appreciation for all they do, by showering KINDness to the North Mankato Elementary Teachers and Support Staff! Our goal is to provide a basket of KIND Bars in May to about 180 people at Concordia Classical Academy, Bridges, Futures, Hoover, and Monroe. Please help by dropping off your donation of “KIND” bars in the designated basket in the Narthex or monetary donations can be given to the office.

BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, April 4, 2022 from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

There's still time to make an appointment to donate blood on April 4th. There are openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

Sign up at: 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.

Gustavus Holy Land Tour

If you are interested in being a part of a group traveling to the Holy Land, click on the link below for all the details. https://gustavus.edu/president/concertFiles/media/tours/Gustavus_Holy_Land_Tour.pdf

10:30 am Worship Opportunity

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex at the Ushers Stand, for volunteers willing to assist with 8:30 screens and 10:30 livestream. Anyone who knows how, or is interested in learning how, can sign up on a week-by-week basis. Great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours. **Please Note:** We will continue to stream the 8:30 am worship each week.

Youth Activities

High School Fundraiser

Lefse making by students going on the Camp Amnicon Wilderness Adventure is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th. The group will be selling lefse after the early worship service on Sunday April 10th (Palm Sunday). Come, support our youth, and grab some lefse for your Easter celebration. Free will donation.

8th Grade Affirmation of Baptism—April 24th at 10:30 Worship

Sunday, April 24th is the First Sunday After Easter, but also a very special Sunday for our 8th grade students. We will be celebrating Affirmation of Baptism on that day, and this year, the celebration will be a part of our 10:30 am worship service. We are excited for an opportunity to have the congregation join with these students to share in this milestone in their faith journey. Students who will be affirming their baptism on that day (or in one or two instances, perhaps a later date) are: Lucas Hammerski, Gwen Hanson, Malia Karau, Gracia Lagred, Jared Lemke, Jaxson Parker and Charlie Bobholz.

VBS Day Camp—June 20th-23rd

In true Minnesota fashion, we've already experienced 70 degrees since Spring began! We've got kiddos ready to put on their shorts and go outside to play. Summer is only 12 weeks away and summer calendars are filling up quickly. Registration is now open for VBS Day Camp that will again be combined, with the host church being Christ the King and led by the Green Lake Bible Camp staff.

Children aged Kindergarten to those completing 5th grade in 2022 can register for \$40. To start the camp experience, a Sunday family fun night, including dinner will be held. Monday—Thursday the kids will have a great time from 9am—3pm. Contact Trish or the office for scholarship and Pre-K availability. Registration forms are in the Narthex.



Service and Sun—July 5-8, 2022

Attention kids going into 6th grade through completion of 9th grade! There's summer fun planned for you too.

Service & Sun will be a combination of the past's Wacky Doodle and Mission Mankato. We are planning 3 mornings of service and 3 afternoons of sunny activities. We will end the week with a day at Valleyfair.

Sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

Green Lake Bible Camp Opportunities

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has opened camp registration for Summer 2022. There are camp opportunities for 1st-12th grade students, as well as family camps. GLLM has introduced some changes to how camp will be run so take careful note of starting and ending days. Messiah discount code is LAUNCH2022. Head to their website to see more details or get registered! www.gllm.org/summer-camp



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries hires 60 faithful young adults each summer to help spread God's love to all who come to their sites. If you or someone you know might be a great fit for such an opportunity, contact the office or use this QR code.



REFER A POTENTIAL
SUMMER STAFF
MEMBER AT
bit.ly/GLLMrefer



March Council Meeting Highlights

The council approved the February financials—our total income was \$16,726 and expenses were \$33,100 resulting in expenses over income \$16,374. Year-to-date income less expense by \$3,286.

Also discussed were opportunities to reach out to teachers to acknowledge their commitment in these last two difficult years, especially since Messiah is “home” to a number of educators and education professionals. The team discussed the use of social media and technology for ministry, especially for giving options.

Ways to Give Online

How to give online:

1. Scan this QR code:



2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com

- > Click on “OFFERING” on the homepage, 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 account

Know your gift is appreciated and helps support the ministry of Messiah.

Choir Practice

Please put the following dates on your calendar for the start of choir rehearsal on Wednesday, May 11th and 25th at 6:30 pm.

We will rehearse two new songs—“Grace” by Mark Hayes which we will sing on May 29th for our Messiah Worships United service. “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” by Bradley Ellingboe, which we will sing on July 31st for our Messiah Worships United / 50th Anniversary service.

Please invite friends, family and neighbors. For questions, please call Cindy Rupp (Director) at 507-327-9306.

Worship Participants

As we look forward to the next stage of our transition to that which is a “new” normal regarding worship at Messiah, a calendar for May-June of Worship Participants will be developed. We are looking ahead to needing 2 ushers, a reader and 1(or 2) communion assistants/service. Be alert to Sunday Announcements later in April and the May Newsletter for the proposed calendar. If you are currently serving in one or more of these roles, I am planning on you continuing unless I hear differently. New participants are always welcome!

Linda Wenkel, Worship Participant Coordinator
345-6180 or email hlwenkel@hickorytech.net

COVID-19 Update

There are no recommendations for masking or social distancing being implemented at this time.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion 8:30 am Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School Family Day 10:30 am Worship (band)	4 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Blood Drive	5 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	6 LENT 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner for All 6:00 pm Lent Worship 6:30 pm MSM & HS Youth	7 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows Worship 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 5:00 pm Bible Study	8	9 Lefse Making 1:00 pm Recital
10 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship (FB also) and First Communion 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Lefse Sales 10:30 am Worship (band) and First Communion 11:30 am Council Meeting	11 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 6:30 pm 4H Meeting	12 9:30 am Quilting Group 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	13 LAST NIGHT OF MSM 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm MSM End-of-Year Celebration	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm NO Bible Study 6:00 pm Worship	15 GOOD FRIDAY 6:00 pm Worship	16
HOLY WEEK						
17 EASTER 8:30 am Worship (FB also) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Worship (band)	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 9:00 am Make food for Crossroads and REACH 10:45 am Deliver and serve food to Crossroads 11:00 am Private Group in GP 11:45 am Deliver REACH 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	20 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	21 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	22	23
24 Communion 8:30 am Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (band) and Affirmation of Baptism 3:00 pm Girl Scout Meeting	25 9:00 am SAIL Group	26 9:30 am Last Quilting Group 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	27 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship	28 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	29	30 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>You are welcome to join a bible study anytime!</p> </div>



Messiah Lutheran Church
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NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Trish Reedstrom, Pastor: *PastorTrish@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...”

Please Pray For...

In our thoughts and prayers: Ben K, Craig V, Dave C, Earl W, Judy F, Nancy O, Milt H, Dolores S, Sharen O, Jason M, Dan and family, Jessica R, Millie, Darold, Ellie, Arthur, Suzanne, Tom, Jerry, Pam, Bob G, Lois S, Jordon

Those who serve our country: Dan P, Derek M, Carley, Alex.

Prayers of Sympathy for Sharon and Steve Lenz on the death of Sharon’s brother, John Redig.

Worship Schedule



Sunday

8:30 am—Traditional Worship
 9:15 am—Sunday School
 10:30 am—Contemporary Music

Holy Week

8:30 am—Palm Sunday
 10:30 am—Palm Sunday
 6:00 pm—Maundy Thursday
 6:00 pm—Good Friday
 8:30 am—Easter Sunday
 9:15 - 10:15 am—Easter Breakfast
 10:30 am—Easter Sunday

March Worship Participants

<u>April</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
4/3	Usher: Jeremy Soost	Nate Brekke
	Reader: Amy Soost	Shawna Merrill
4/10	Usher: Greg Ous	Karla Elmore
	Reader: Linda Winkel	Kay Lund
4/17	Usher: Rande Bowman	Bill Halstead
	Reader: Greg Suskovic	Samantha Erickson
4/24	Usher: Steve Lenz	Steve Carlberg
	Reader: Sonja Parr	Lynn Klaber