



MESSIAH  
lutheran church

*Sharing the love of Jesus*

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

[messiahnorthmankato.com](http://messiahnorthmankato.com)

## *Christ Will Come Again.*

### CAN WE HASTEN HIS RETURN?

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

Early in this month of April we enter into the 50 day season of Easter, celebrating Christ's victory over death and the assurance of new and eternal life for all who trust in Him. At the conclusion of the Easter season we mark Christ's ascension into heaven and His promise to come again.

The return of Christ has been in the news cycle lately. Recent public discussion surrounding the war with Iran has included claims the conflict may fulfill Biblical prophecy or even hasten the return of Jesus. Some rhetoric connected to political and military leadership has been interpreted this way, though not all circulating statements are verified direct quotes.

Across history, wars, disasters, and political conflicts have been repeatedly interpreted as signs of the imminent end. This has been true from the fall of Rome to the world wars to modern Middle Eastern conflicts. Each time, predictions proved mistaken. Here we are, and Christ has not returned. Scripture calls Christians not to speculation, but to faithfulness.

Does Scripture teach that wars bring about Christ's return? The clear biblical answer is no. The New Testament never teaches that human violence advances God's kingdom. In fact, Jesus rejected the use of force even in his own defense, saying, "All who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52). The kingdom of God comes by God's action, not human strategy or military events.

Scripture gives us no timeline, no geopolitical formula, and no war that forces God's hand. Jesus himself said, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36)

Christians should receive with suspicion any teaching that the return of Christ is dependent on the shedding of the blood of others, as in war, suffering, torture or trauma. The blood of Jesus is sufficient for the redemption of all; no additional suffering of others is necessary. To require human blood for the return of Christ is to make void the gift of Christ's sacrifice and claim it was and is not enough.

Christians should also be cautious whenever political goals are described as divinely ordained. The Bible repeatedly warns against claiming God's authority for human plans. No nation, army, or leader carries the power to trigger God's timetable.

What, then, do Christians actually confess? Each time we worship together we proclaim in our creed a simple hope: "Christ will come again." Our calling is therefore not to interpret headlines as prophecy, but to live as people prepared for Christ at any time: praying for peace, caring for those harmed by conflict, and speaking truth without fear or exaggeration.

The Christian question is never, "Is this the war that brings Jesus back?" Instead, it is: "Are we living faithfully if he came today?" Christian hope does not rest in world events growing darker. It rests in God's promise remaining faithful. And that promise depends not on war — but on Christ alone.

With gratitude for each of you,

*Pastor LaDonna*

NEWSLETTER

APRIL  
2026

## 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 Worship Schedule



Maundy Thursday - April 2nd @ 6:15 pm



Good Friday - April 3rd @ 6:15 pm



Easter Sunday - April 5th @ 8:30 & 10:30  
**Breakfast 9:15 - 10:15 am**

## Messiah Senior Lunch Group

The Olde Brick House is our choice for the Messiah April lunch. You are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7th at 11:30 am. The Olde Brick House is located at 1521 Tullamore, parking is available in back and side of the restaurant. Check their online menu to see the wide variety of Irish dishes and traditional foods that you can select. We have a long table reserved so we can dine together.

This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends, men and women. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation.

## Prayer Shawl Meeting

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet on Saturday, April 11th at 10:00 am in the Gathering Place. If you cannot attend this meeting and have completed a prayer shawl, please leave it in the Quilting Room with your name on it. This meeting is also an invitation to anyone who would like to join our team. If you do not knit or crochet, someone will be happy to teach you. Call Alice K. at 387-4755 if you have questions.

## Quilting Final Month

April is the final month of quilting for 2026. Quilting days are the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month**. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US! We will begin between 9:00 - 9:30 and end by 3:00. We provide lunch (we take turns bringing lunch for the group). Call Lynn Klaber at 507-380-5465 with questions.

## 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.

## Messiah Kids Updates

In April, Wednesday dinner will be at 5:30 pm with worship following at 6:00 pm. Class-time for Messiah Kids and Club Messiah students will be from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The final evening will be on April 22nd.

## MSM Updates

In April, Wednesday dinner will be at 5:30 pm with worship following at 6:00 pm. Class-time will be from 6:30-7:30 pm. The final evening of MSM will be April 22nd for 6th and 7th grade students.

**Attention 8th Grade Families:** important Affirmation dates coming up

- April 4th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm - Design Stoles for Affirmation
- April 29th @ 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Affirmation Rehearsal and Dinner
- May 3rd @ 10:30 am - Affirmation of Baptism

## Connections Volunteers Needed

The Connections shelter is an emergency shelter in Mankato that houses men, women, and families. The shelter is open from 6 pm-8 am daily and has a 35-bed capacity with nightly meal. Opportunities exist to make a meal and serve at the site. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex 2-3 weeks prior to the final serving dates: **April 20th and 21st**. Contact Barb Meier with questions.

*This is an excellent opportunity for families to do a service project together.*

## Mankato Youth Place "My Place" - Spring Collection

Messiah will be collecting the following items for My Place from April 12th through May 10th. Erin from Mankato Youth Place will give a temple talk at both worships on Sunday, April 19th.

### **New or Gently Used:**

Boys' pants (activewear, sweatpants, etc.) sizes 5-10

Boys' shorts, sizes 5-10

Girls' pants (activewear, leggings, sweats, etc) sizes 5-10

Girls' shorts, sizes 5-10

Boys' and girls' socks, small sizes

### **New Only:**

Boys' underwear, sizes 5-10

Girls' underwear, sizes 5-10

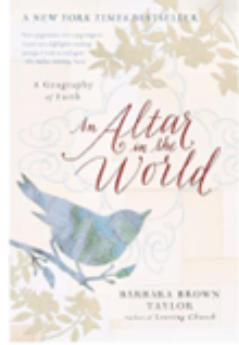
## A Fresh Start - Thank You!

A special "thank you" from the Social Outreach Team and A Fresh Start. Messiah was an amazing partner again this winter. They were able to fill two vehicles full of items that will help people moving into new housing: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and cleaning supplies.

## Congregational Book Read

We are reading An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you are interested in participating, please contact Janet Jones.

Leader	Location	Date and Time
Steve Jones	Steve's	4/7 @ 7 pm
	Steve's	4/28 @ 7 pm
Renee Guyer	Messiah	4/12 @ 9:30 am
	Messiah	4/26 @ 9:30 am
Greg Suskovic	Messiah	4/22 @ 2 pm
Lynn Klaber	Kimberly's	4/6 @ 1 pm
	Kimberly's	4/20 @ 1 pm



## Council Updates

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

**February 2026** offerings were \$22,968 vs expenses of \$30,867 resulting in a deficit of \$7,898 for the month. Income for February 2025 was \$30,394 vs. expenses of \$29,463 which left us with a surplus of \$931.

Therefore, our giving is \$7,426 less than last year while expenses are \$1,404 higher.

YTD 2026 = \$66,747 revenue vs. \$60,666 expenses creating a surplus of \$6081. (revenue includes 2025 contributions for 2026)

YTD 2025 = \$80,124 revenue vs. \$56,961 expenses creating a surplus of \$23,163. (revenue includes 2024 contributions for 2025)

### Church Council met on March 23rd and the following was discussed:

- Pastors report about the Lenten services and the feedback was positive. Most people enjoyed seeing members they have not crossed paths with for awhile.
- Wednesdays in lent have seen great engagement and attendance is up for those services over 2025. Our youth are taking on support rolls during the Wednesday services and are doing a great job.
- The new skylights have been installed, we are dry at the moment!!!!
- Palm Sunday Path is Sunday, March 29th @ 2:00 pm starting at Grace Lutheran Church.
- The refugee family is still being driven to school and work. They have their next ICE meeting in May.
- We are getting started on the Audit, they had their first meeting 3/18/26.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20th 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.



# Messiah Happenings



**Quilting**



**GATHER**



**A Fresh Start Donations**



**Youth Resources Donations**



**Council Installation**



**MSM Pose as the Last Supper**



**Making First Communion Bread**

## April / May 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!

April	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
<b>4/5</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>Ushers:</b>	Greg Guyer & Kyle Vogt
	<b>Reader:</b>	Linda Wenkel
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Janet & Steve Jones
		Steve Carlberg & Bill Halstead
		Shirley Rosenau
		Marlene & Jim Jilek
<b>4/12</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Greg Guyer & Kyle Vogt
	<b>Reader:</b>	Sonja Parr-Baker
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Mary Borth & Elaine Fossen
		Steve Carlberg & Bill Halstead
		Joan Klanderud
		Lisa Benson & Gina Henkelman
<b>4/19</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Kim Henrickson & Jeremy Soost
	<b>Reader:</b>	Georgia Holmes
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Diane Halvorson & Breah Hendrickson
		Tim Hatlestad & Frank Steichen
		Sandy Hatlestad
		Jodi & Mark Himmer
<b>4/26</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Kim Henrickson & Jeremy Soost
	<b>Reader:</b>	Amy Soost
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Marilyn Hanson & Al Narveson
		Tim Hatlestad & Frank Steichen
		Jeff Pribyl
		Phyllis & Peter SkadahI
May	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
<b>5/3</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman
	<b>Reader:</b>	Rene Guyer
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Paul & Jane Zweig
		Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman
		Eva Borneke
		Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler
<b>5/10</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman
	<b>Reader:</b>	Diane Halvorson
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Mary Borth & Deb Leiferman
		Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman
		Lynn Klaber
		Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler
<b>5/17</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Greg Ous & Scott Madigan
	<b>Reader:</b>	Steve Lenz
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Carl & Kathy Fitzloff
		Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
		Jan Waller
		Chuck & Betty Rafferty
<b>5/24</b>	<b>Ushers:</b>	Greg Ous & Scott Madigan
	<b>Reader:</b>	Myra Kluck
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Scott & Sylvia Norman
		Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
		Karen Wright
		Darci Karau & Dee Nolan
<b>5/31</b>	<b>Messiah Worship United</b>	
	<b>Ushers:</b>	Mark Himmer & Peter SkadahI
	<b>Reader:</b>	Sarah Suskovic
	<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Jeremy & Amy Soost

**April 2026**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	<b>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:15 pm <b>Worship</b>	<b>3 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:15 pm <b>Worship</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 am – 12:00 pm 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Affirmation Stoles
<b>5 EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15-10:15 am Breakfast 10:30 am <b>Worship</b>	<b>6 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>7</b> 11:30 am Monthly Lunch @ Olde Brick House 3:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm <b>Worship</b> 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 6:30-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	<b>9</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting 1:00 pm Private Event
<b>12</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship</b> 9:30 am Renee's Book Club 10:30 am <b>Worship</b> 11:30 am Private Event 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Quilting Group	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm <b>Worship</b> 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 6:30-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	<b>16</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship</b> 10:30 am <b>Worship</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's 5:30 pm Council Meeting 5:45 pm Connections Serving 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Quilting Group 5:45 pm Connections Serving	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 2:00 pm Greg's Book Club @ Messiah 5:30 pm Supper 6:00 pm <b>Worship</b> 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 6:30-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	<b>23</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Private Meeting
<b>26</b> 8:30 am <b>Worship</b> 9:30 am Renee's Book Club 10:30 am <b>Worship</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Affirmation Dinner & Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>May 1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	



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

Non Profit Org

US Postage

PAID

Mankato, MN

Permit #370

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

L a b e l

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



*Sharing the Love of Jesus*

# Prayer List

**Thoughts & Prayers:** Greg, Mollie, Clara, Maddie & baby, Briana, Nancy, Jeff, Wayne, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Cory, Kay G, Brian

**Continued Thoughts & Prayers:** Craig, Earl, Patty, Neal, Emma, Heather, Carolyn, Elle, Jackie, Steve, 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.

## Holy Week Worship Schedule



### 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>