



We had a wonderful Christmas decorating group to help us bring some Christmas joy to Messiah. Thank you to: Sandy Dahms, Dee Nolan, Jeri Veldman, Frank & Deb Steichen, Heather & Henry Von Bank, Mary Jane Hassel, Lynell Harms, Phyliss & Peter Skadahl, Linda Wenkel, Amy & Nicholas Malvin.



Poinsettia Orders

Thank you to all who ordered poinsettia plants!
The sanctuary is ready for the Christmas season.

Christmas Luminaries

To order a luminary for your loved one, complete a form and include a \$5.00 donation.
Forms are available in the Narthex until December 17th.



Christmas Worship

Join us for Christmas Eve worship at 10:00 am and 3:30 pm with communion and candlelight. Also joining in this special worship, we will have the praise band, Messiah Choir, Bell Choir, organ, and horns.

Sharing Tree

If you or someone you know could use some extra help this holiday season, let the office know by Monday, November 13th, as we prepare to host our sharing tree.



Attention Singers

You are invited to join us in celebrating Christmas by singing during worship on Christmas Eve at 10:00 am and 3:30 pm. **Choir Rehearsal will be at 6:45 pm on December 13th.**

Messiah Worships United—Sunday School Christmas Program

Messiah will come together with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship styles on Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 am. The Sunday School children will also share their Christmas program with the congregation during worship.



- A Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Transition. Webster's Dictionary defines transition as "passing from one condition, or state of being to another." The opposite of transition is described with words like stability, constancy, or durability.

Messiah Lutheran is in a state of transition. Transition from what or to what you may ask? The easy answer is that we are between pastors. In the interim (after the previous pastor has left and before the new pastor arrives), we have an interim pastor. That's me.

As one who has been trained as a transitional pastor, I hope that in our time together we can do more than just find and call a new, permanent (often called a "settled") pastor. Congregations that want to get through the process as quickly as possible form a Call Committee, select candidates, interview those candidates, and then call the new pastor. Often, according to a scholar of transition ministry, Norman B. Bendroth, the most charismatic candidate gets the job. When the new pastor arrives, the congregation turns to the new leader and asks her or him to "tell us what to do. Tell us how to get things back to normal again." (Interim Ministry in Action, Rowman and Littlefield, 2018).

The problem with that model is that the congregation gives up the ability to decide for itself what changes need to be made. They don't ask: "What ministry opportunities do we wish to pursue? What is God calling us to do and to be in this time of transition and for the foreseeable future?" They assume the new pastor will know the answers to these and similar questions. "The new pastor will tell us what to do." We're all ears.

There is another path through this transition time. We can take a deep dive into Messiah Lutheran's history and study our leadership structure. As a congregation, we can recommit to Messiah's mission, vision, and purpose, and analyze our core values. Most importantly, we can pray, asking God to reveal God's desire and direction for this ministry. Though this process can take a few months if done well, a congregation that follows this path will emerge at a place where the members can call the right pastor for this moment in the church's history and mission. Such a congregation calls a pastor who will help the members achieve their goals and realize their purpose.

It's really up to you. Want to go fast? We can do that. Want to be very intentional about pursuing God's vision for this ministry? We can do that too. But it takes more time. Not years. A few months. At a minimum, our pre-calling activity should answer very precisely three questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What is God calling us to be and to do?

In the course of my two-year training program, I was asked to write my personal vision of transitional ministry: Because the loss of a pastoral leader can be a painful and sometimes traumatic experience for a congregation, the need for a supportive, strong, and steady hand is crucial for recovery. The task of helping a congregation review its heritage, re-focus or expand its mission, develop strong lay leaders for the present and the future, secure connections with area churches and its judicatory, and envision a bright and meaningful future for itself can be facilitated by an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP). With nearly forty years of pastoral experience and with the IIP training I am getting, I will be ready to take up this challenge if called to do so.

Whether you choose to go fast or more slowly, I am here to help. I feel very grateful and so honored to be your partner in this important endeavor.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Tim

Messiah Lunch Group—December 2023 Plans

You are invited to come to a Holiday Potluck Buffet on **Tuesday, December 5th at 11:30 am at Messiah**. Please bring a small dish to share. Bring a friend.

A short program will follow with Greg Suskovic and Steve Howard providing holiday music for your enjoyment. Then Sarah and Greg Suskovic will share their pictures and stories about their recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.

Please come and join us for this fun and very pleasant senior event. Call the church office (387-5537) or email Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com by December 4th if you plan to attend and what food item you will be bringing.

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'll meet the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30, starting December 6th.** 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 and contact Sonja and Briana Parr-Baker at sonjaparr@gmail.com with any questions.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet on Saturday, December 9th 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 is an on-going ministry which you may join at any time. If you are interested in joining, please come to our meeting. Call Alice K. at 387-4755 if you have questions.

Sunday School *Looking Ahead*

The Sunday School children are busy practicing for their Christmas program which will be held during worship on **December 17th @ 10:00 am**. Please join them!

December 24th & 31st—There will be no Sunday School between Christmas and New Year's.

4th Graders First Communion Retreat

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, February 24, 2024**. On **Sunday, February 25th**, 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

Winter Warm-up with the other Mankato area ELCA churches was a great time in November!

MSM will take a break between Christmas and New Years, so please note there we will not meet **December 27th or January 3rd**.



Last Sunday Sessions

High school students are in for a treat for December's Last Sunday Session! Join in the spirit of the season as we gather at Messiah on **SATURDAY, December 16th at 3:00 pm** for Christmas games and baking. Wear your Christmas PJs, sweaters, hats, etc. and be ready for a good time!

From the Church Council ...

—November Highlights—

Stewardship & Finance: We were blessed with a wonderful October of giving with 5 Sundays including Pastor Trish's farewell service. As of 10/31 donations, we are at 80% of budget having caught back up to the last 2 year's average of 80%. Year to date expenses remain above income by \$18,711 as we hope to catch up these last two months of the year. Current pledges are at \$236,518. Last year's pledges totaled \$251,519 so we have a ways to go with 7 weeks left. Thank you to those who have already pledged, and there is still time for those who haven't to submit your pledge for 2024.

Messiah's new interim pastor started mid-November—please welcome Pastor Tim McDermott.

Decisions regarding a capital campaign for early 2024 are also in progress. An additional group will meet to discuss updates to the Endowment and Scholarship funds. Pastor Tim gave an overview of the transition and call process that he will guide us through.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, December 10th at 11:45 am.

****The annual meeting is January 28, 2024. Team leaders, please submit final reports by December 31st.***

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.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:00 am

Join us for the annual meeting after the 10:00 am Messiah Worships United service. A light lunch will be served. We will hear team reports from 2023 and discuss the budget and plans for 2024.

Quilting

Mark your calendars! Quilting begins in January. 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 387-6172.



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.

Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Messiah has committed to volunteer as a congregation for **Connections Shelter on December 28th and 29th**. Opportunities exist to make part of a meal or serve at the site. Please see sign-up sheets for the coming month in the narthex. If you're not available this month, additional dates will be available soon for January—April. If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a donation to purchase the food.

Blizzard Bags—Thank You

from Lutheran Social Services ...

Thank you for participating in the God's Work Our Hands outreach project. The LSS Meals programs provides meals for hundreds of seniors across the state. The shelf stable meals you provided will insure our participants still have food to eat in case a regular meal delivery cannot be made. We appreciate your time toward this project.

- Kristy

from VINE Hot Meals on Wheels ...

Thank you for your gracious donation of Blizzard Bags to VINE's Hot Meals on Wheels program. Our meal recipients have been appreciative of these gifts each year, as have VINE staff and volunteers. We are so fortunate to live in a community so generous in philanthropy. Thank you again,

- Mary

from VINE Hot Meals on Wheels Delivery ...

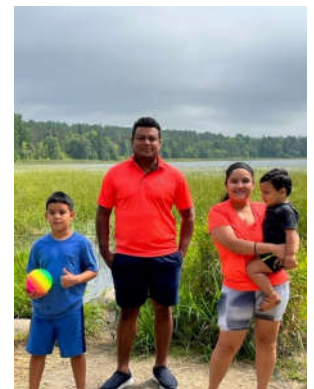
On November 3rd I delivered meals on wheels for VINE. I also delivered the Blizzard Bags your church prepared for the people receiving the meals. The people were very grateful. One lady said "do we have to pay for them?" Everyone was happy to receive them. I personally want to say Thank You to Messiah. What a great way to show some kindness and love. In Christ,

- Marcella

Fiesta de la Familia

A Celebration of the many accomplishments of the Ariac and Andrea Cruz Family took place Thursday, November 9th, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Approximately 200 people enjoyed a Nicaraguan-style meal: among the dishes were chorizo, seasoned black beans and rice, fresh fruits, and Tres Leches Cake. Each table was decorated with unique centerpieces, and the placemats were copies of Randy's artwork.

After dinner, the program began with a choir composed of the five sponsoring churches. Following that, Shellee Hinz spoke of the four months the Cruzes lived with her after they arrived in December; Ben and Betsy Geer spoke on their year of family gatherings with the Cruzes; Kathy Chatelaine from the Southeast Minnesota Synod spoke, as well as a visiting bishop from Colombia. The unexpected surprise was both Ariac and Andrea speaking to the group--of their year and of their appreciation for the love of the people who have helped them. An unforgettable evening, filled with the warmth of people happy to be celebrating a year of getting to know the Cruzes.



December/January 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!

8:30 am

12/3 Ushers: Chuck Dulas & Steve Jones
Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker
Comm: Jane & Paul Zwiag
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

12/10 Ushers: Chuck Dulas & Steve Jones
Reader: Diane Halvorson
Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: Sonja Parr-Baker

12/17 Messiah Worships United
at 10:00 am

10:00 am

12/24 Ushers: TBD (call office if interested)
Reader: TBD (call office if interested)
Comm: TBD (call office if interested)
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

12/31 Messiah Worships United
at 10:00 am

8:30 am

1/7 Ushers: Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman
Reader: Victoria Hanson
Comm: Diane Halvorson & Linda Wenkel
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

1/14 Ushers: Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman
Reader: Renee Guyer
Comm: Cheryl Christofferson & Deb Leiferman
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

1/21 Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Kim Henrickson
Reader: Amy Soost
Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

1/28 Messiah Worships United
at 10:00 am

10:30 am

Peter Skadahl & Steve Carlberg
Shirley Rosenau
Marlene Buker & Jan Waller
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

Jon Karau & Jeran Karau
Joan Klanderud
Gina Henkelman & Lisa Benson
Malia Karau
TBD (call office if interested)

Ushers: Dayle Moore & TBD
Reader: Jeff Pribyl
Comm: Swede Mundell & Jodi Himmer
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

3:30 pm

TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

10:00 am

Ushers: TBD (call office if interested)
Reader: TBD (call office if interested)
Comm: TBD (call office if interested)
FB Live: TBD (call office if interested)
Screens: TBD (call office if interested)

10:30 am

Jim Jilek & Paul Henkelman
Lucette Hurley
Betty & Chuck Rafferty
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

Jim Jilek & Paul Henkelman
Julie Olsen
Deb & Frank Steichen
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

Jon Karau & Jeran Karau
Kay Lund
Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

Ushers: Jon Karau & Jeran Karau
Reader: April Rosendale
Comm: Victoria & Mike Hanson
TBD (call office if interested)
TBD (call office if interested)

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w /band	4 9:00 am SAIL Group	5 11:30 am Monthly Lunch Christmas Potluck	6 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Team 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	7 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows	8	9 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting
10 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w /band 11:30 am Council Meeting 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	11 9:00 am SAIL Group Office Closed until 1:30 pm	12	13 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 12:30 pm Worship Team Mtg 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Choir Practice	14 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	15	16 3:00 pm Last Sunday Sessions @ Messiah
17 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worship United (FB Live) w/ Sunday School Christmas Program 2:00 pm Private Event	18 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Cub Scout Mtg	19	20 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	21 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	22 Office Closed	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 am Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 3:30 pm Worship	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS office closed 9:00 am NO SAIL Group	26	27 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace 5:30 pm NO Evening Activities	28 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections 7:00 pm Endowment Mtg	29 Office Closed 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	30
31 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worship United						



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Jan Waller, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Amy Malvin, Communications & Education: Amy@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label1

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Craig V, Earl W, Sally M, Mike F, Linda R, Bonnie O, Patty A, Neal L, Lowell R, Emma M, Bill, Morgan B, Peggy M, Mollie D, Heather S, Carolyn, Kathy H, Rosie P, Mike C

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex

Prayers for the Cruz family: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Prayers for safe travels: Lauren

Prayers of Sympathy to Bev and Jeff Stock and family on the death of Bev's father.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship—10:00 am and 3:30 pm

Christmas Day—No worship

New Year's Eve Worship—Messiah Worships United @ 10:00 am

