



MESSIAH

lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

February 2025

Winter Donations—Collecting until February 9th

Connections – Homeless Shelter

The Connections shelter is an emergency shelter in Mankato that houses men, women, and families. The current needs are: Thinsulate or water-repellent gloves for men and women (size: Medium-Large), wool and/or thermal men's socks. These items need to be new. Also, Cub Foods, Hy-Vee, or Kwik Trip gift cards \$10 each can be put in the Donations box.

A Fresh Start

A Fresh Start serves those emerging from homelessness. This can be gently used or new: Kitchen dishes and utensils, bath towels, bedding blankets, comforters, furniture, etc. This year we are also going to focus on: toilet paper, paper towels, brooms/dustpans, plungers, multi-surface cleaners, laundry baskets and garbage cans.



Opportunities exist to make a meal and serve at the Connections Shelter. Please see sign-up sheets for March 3rd & 4th in the narthex, the 2 weeks leading up to the serve dates. If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a donation to purchase the food.



Messiah will serve at Crossroads again on February 18th. This time we are asking 4 different people to make a hotdish. The recipe and ingredients will be provided. We will also need additional food items: dessert and rolls. Sarah will be in the narthex for the next couple of weeks to sign-up for the above, as well as for volunteers to serve.

Cruz Family Celebration and Fundraiser

In April, the WELCOME Team, in partnership of 5 local Lutheran churches, is sponsoring a celebration of the Ariac and Andrea Cruz family's many achievements since arriving in MN from Nicaragua 2 years ago seeking asylum. The celebration will include a dinner, music, a short program and a Silent Auction. The funds raised will support the family's quest for asylum which is a long, complicated and expensive process. Messiah has been asked to provide at least 5 themed packages/ baskets to support this fundraiser. We are seeking donations for these, either new items or money to be used to purchase themed items. We would love to have creative people to join us in this effort. In addition, if any of you have a connection to businesses that may be willing to donate money or items (cash, gift cards, tickets, or physical items) we would appreciate that as well--ask us for further information about that. We hope to have items gathered by the end of February or early March, then get together to put the packages together. If you'd like ideas for themed packages, we have a list of many fun ideas to get us started. Thanks so much for your help. If you have questions, please contact Janet Jones (507-340-7093) or Phyllis Skadahl (507-469-8357).

Please bring your donations to Messiah between February 2nd and March 2nd. Checks can be made to Messiah with Cruz Auction Fundraiser in the memo section or put it in an envelope that says Cruz Auction Fundraiser on the outside.

- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

Remember these?

They are some of the stars distributed in worship in early January. They were part of our last celebration of the Christmas season, the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus. The wisemen followed a star to the place where Jesus was. They were drawn to the feet of Jesus by a star shining brightly in the night sky. The star revealed the Christ child.

A few hundred years later, there were people who moved to the middle eastern desert where, removed from the hustle and bustle of daily life, they sought to draw close to God. Their life was an ascetic one: simple, uncomplicated, prayerful.

They became known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers, from whom we have received a wealth of insight and wisdom for growing a spiritual life.

Others who desired closeness with God, but who could not leave their daily life of family and work sometimes went out to the desert fathers and mothers to receive their wisdom and instruction for tending to the inner life of faith. They would often ask of the desert fathers and mothers: "Give us a word or a phrase." The word or phrase would then become a focus for their meditation and prayer life when they returned to their daily life. People received them as gifts. It was assumed the word or phrase was sacred and came bearing some kind of gift that each needed. People would live with their word or phrase for a period of time or perhaps even a year to see what it might offer them for the growth of their spiritual life.

We practiced a similar thing with the "star words" many of you received in worship on January 5th. The word I received was "prayer." It's a word that may sound obvious for a pastor. Indeed prayer is a part of my daily spiritual practice. But receiving the word "prayer" has made me notice the ways prayer is a part of not just a morning ritual, but it is infused throughout my day. For example, I hear a disturbing, worrisome piece of news and my star word "prayer" invites me lay that burden at the feet of God. Or, I fret about how a confirmation lesson will connect with the youth and my star word invites me, through prayer, to seek God's help. And just the other day I was feeling a bit dry in my practice of prayer, a bit stuck in old patterns that no longer brought life or joy. Then came a friends invitation to join a group she is facilitating on prayer through movement of the body. My star word gave me the courage to sign up.

If you received a star word in our early January worship and you kept it, how is it connecting with your inner spiritual life? What gifts is it giving to you? How is it leading you to God? I'd love to chat with you about your experience or exchange a text or email around this practice of receiving and living with your "word." You can connect with me through the church office at 507-387-5537 or by email at pastor@messiahnorthmankato.com.

With gratitude for each of you,
Pastor LaDonna



MESSIAH KIDS on Sundays & CLUB MESSIAH on Wednesdays

Messiah Kids continues in February during late worship; with children being dismissed to class after Children's Time. Club Messiah continues on Wednesdays with family dinner at 5:30 pm, family worship at 6:00 pm, and student class-time from 6:30-7:00 pm.

NOTE: Sunday, February 2nd will be a Messiah Worship United service at 10:00 am, so come a little earlier than usual. The Annual Meeting and Lunch will follow worship. Please join us.

NOTE: Sunday, February 16th will be a very special intergenerational "Generous Together" worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. We WILL still have Messiah Kids on this day, we welcome your entire family to attend worship together and participate in an fun interactive all-ages worship in the Gathering Place, before your kiddos go to class-time.

Attention 4th Grade Families*: Letters have been sent inviting students and parents to the First Communion Retreat on March 15th. Please RSVP to the church office by February 15th.

*If we have missed someone who has not gone through First Communion yet, please contact the office.

Wednesday Worship in February

All are invited to join us in February as we worship with Pastor LaDonna. Worship is Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm. Feel free to stop in before worship from 5:30-6:00 for a bite to eat as well. This is a great opportunity for those who are busy on Sundays and/or those who only have time for a shorter worship. Holy communion is celebrated each week and offering trays are available in the narthex.

After worship, enjoy some adult conversation as parents wait for their Club Messiah and MSM students to finish class.



Middle School Ministries

MSM in February will continue with Dinner at 5:30 pm, Worship at 6:00 pm, and Class-time from 6:30-7:30 pm.

NOTE: Sunday, February 16th will be a very special intergenerational "Generous Together" worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. We welcome your entire family to attend worship together and participate in an fun interactive all-ages worship in the Gathering Place.

Attention 8th Grade Families: Information about Affirmation will be coming out in the near future. For those students who have not previously made a First Communion cup, please contact the office so we can get you added to the list when cups are painted on March 15th. These cups will be used during the Affirmation service.



Please join us on Sunday, February 16th for our 2nd "Generous Together" worship gathering. As we had last month, there will be the 2 services at the regular times (8:30 and 10:30) and we will meet in the Gathering Space. We had a great response to last month's gathering and we want to see more participation, especially from our youth. This is a program that fosters the concept of generosity throughout the generations and is sponsored by the SE Synod.

Everyone come join the fun and we'll see you on the 16th.



Participants at the January Generous Together worship created centerpieces reflecting the theme: "We are made in the image of a generous God."



Messiah Congregational Book Read

You're invited to participate in a Congregational Book Read with small group book study options. The book is [A Bigger Table](#) by John Pavlovitz. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage or re-engage with members of our congregation and build relationships with our fellow servants in Christ. You are encouraged to be in a small group, but it is not required.

If you joined a book study group - here are the facilitators and their upcoming February meeting dates:

Steven's Group (Steven Jones) : Sunday, February 2nd at 8:50 am at church

Joanna's Group (Joanna Petersen) : Tuesday, February 4th at 1:15 pm at church

Kim's Group (Kim Henrickson) : Tuesday, February 4th & 18th at 6:30 pm at Kim's home

Janet's Group (Janet Jones) : Monday, February 24th at 1:00 pm at church



Feel free to pick up a book and read along on your own as well. Here's some questions to think about while reading:

1. What does the table metaphor mean to you?
2. How big was the metaphorical table in your faith tradition growing up?
3. What experiences in your youth & young adulthood were transformative to your faith and outlook on the world?

Session	Name	Chapters	Pages (# pages)	Date to Meet
Alpha	Eat & organize	none	none	1/12/25
1	Finding our place	1,2	3-23 (20)	Jan 26 - Feb 8
2	The problem with religion	3,4,5	25-53 (28)	Feb 16 - Feb 22
3	Invitation to the table	6,7,8	57-82 (25)	Mar 2 - 8
4	Real Community	9,10	83-102 (19)	Mar 16 - 29
5	Beyond Theology	11,12,13	105-131 (26)	Apr 6 - 19
6	Standing on the edge	14,15,16	133-160 (27)	Apr 27 - May 10
7	Forward without fear	17,18, After	161-184 (23)	May 18 - 31
Omega	Eat & Celebrate	none	none	6/15/25

Changed your mind and would like to join in a group session? Call Janet Jones at 507-340-7093 and she'll connect you with a group.

COUNCIL UPDATES

2024 council members: Greg Suskovic, Janet Jones, Jean Zandstra, Britta Petersen, Heather Von Bank, Dustin Runkle, Swede Mundell, and Kim Henrickson.

Remember, you are able to use the following methods of giving:

1. Online banking
2. Simply Giving (credit card or checking account accepted)
4. Put your dollars in the Sunday worship plate

Church Council met on January 12th and the following was discussed:

- The 2024 Budget was discussed regarding shortage of income and expenses. Expenses were less than budgeted but unfortunately so was our 2024 income.
- The 2025 Budget was discussed and a copy will be sent to the council to vote so it is ready for the annual meeting.
- The property committee raised concerns that there may be a crack in the beam leading into the sanctuary. Their recommendation is to keep an eye on this and report back if it worsens.
- The recent "Generous Together" service was discussed and was generally well received and some suggestions were made for future.
- An online church directory is being researched to see if it would fit our needs.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 16th at 11:30 am.

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.



Quilting 2025

The Messiah Quilting group are busy cutting, pinning, stitching and tying. Quilting is on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month through the end of April. The quilts are displayed on Mother's Day. We start at 9:00, have our coffee break (a very Lutheran must have!), quilt, enjoy lunch together and quilt some more. And, of course, socialize! We are typically done around 2:00.



HOW CAN YOU HELP??

We are desperately in need of gently used bed sheets. We use these for the backs of our quilts. *Any size is welcome. They can be one color or prints.*

Join us! NO SEWING SKILL IS REQUIRED! We have plenty of jobs for the non-sewer; pinning, cutting and arranging blocks, matching backs and tops, tying the finished quilts.

Questions? Please call Lynn Klaber at 507-380-5465 or email at lynnklaber@gmail.com

Messiah Senior Lunch — Tuesday, February 11th

The monthly lunchers will meet again for a Valentine's lunch at Olive Garden on Tuesday, February 11th at 11:30. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. We hope you will join us for good food, fun conversation, and a chance to get to know other Messiah members. Come and go as you please. Call the church office (387-5537) or email Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com if you have any questions.

February Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

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 (387-5537) or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

2/2	Worship United at 10:00 am Annual Meeting & Lunch to Follow	Ushers: Dayle Moore & Peter Skadah Reader: Lisa Benson Comm: Darci Karau & Gina Henkelman
2/9	Ushers: Brad Heilman & Greg Ous Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Diane Halvorson & Mary Borth	Dayle Moore & Peter Skadah Lucette Hurley Deb & Frank Steichen
2/16	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Reader: Mike Hanson Comm: Elaine Fossen & Marilyn Hanson	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Shirley Rosenau Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
2/23	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Reader: Greg Suskovic Comm: Janet Jones & Deb Leiferman	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Sandy Hatlestad Dee Nolan & Lisa Benson

Worship Participants and Communion Assistants NEEDED

We are in need of additional ushers, readers, and communion assistants. If you've never done it before, it's EASY and QUICK to learn. This is something TEENS and ADULTS can volunteer for. Would you be willing to help out ONE Sunday a month or quarterly? A small commitment makes an amazing difference during worship each Sunday. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please call the church office (387-5537) or Linda Wenkel (345-6180). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Worship Volunteers for Screens and Facebook Live NEEDED

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex at the Usher's 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 stream 8:30 am worship each week and will add 10:30 livestream when we have volunteers.

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections
2 8:50 am Steve's Book Group @ Messiah 10:00 am Worship United (FB Live) & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i> 11:00 am Annual Meeting & Lunch 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	3 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	4 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Messiah 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Kim's Home	5 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	7	8
9 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids</i>	10 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Social Outreach Team Meeting	11 9:30 Quilting 11:30 Monthly Lunchers 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	12 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	14	15
16 Generous Together 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i> 11:30 am Council Meeting	17 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	18 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Kim's Home	19 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	21	22
23 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i> 4:00 pm Private Event	24 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Janet's Book Group @ Messiah	25 9:30 Quilting	26 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah	27 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	28	



Messiah Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PHONE: 507-387-5537

Rev. LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

PRAYER list

Thoughts & Prayers: Brooke, Cheryl, Arthur, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Brian, Bob, Lisa, Chelsea, Dave, Doreen, Stanley, Swede

Continued Thoughts & Prayers: Craig, Earl, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Peggy, Heather, Mollie, Carolyn, Elle

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex, Tyler, Cole

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

Prayers of Sympathy to Kat Parrish on the death of her sister, Felicia Byrd.

Prayers of Sympathy for Elizabeth Landgraff and family on the death of her brother, Danny Gormley.

Prayers of Sympathy for Victoria Hanson and family on the death of her father, Henry Zwart.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family and friends of Darold Rupp on his death.

Prayers of Sympathy for Marilyn Hanson and family on the death of her husband, Howard.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family and friends of Gordon Hedman on his death.

Updating Records

We are in the process of updating our church records with the most current contact information. You may receive a call from Messiah, checking on updates. More people are disconnecting their landline phones and using cell phones and emails to communicate. Some of you might be snowbirds and have different winter addresses. If you would be willing to take a few moments and either call (507-387-5537) or email (messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com) with any changes in the last few years, that would be helpful. Thank you in advance.

Annual Meeting—February 2, 2025

Join us for the annual meeting after the 10:00 am Messiah Worships United service on Sunday, February 2, 2025. A light lunch will be served. We will hear team reports from 2024 and discuss the budget and plans for 2025.