



June 2023

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- Summer at Messiah -

HOPening Weekend of Summer —June 2nd-4th

A celebration of Community, Service and Hope

Friday, June 2nd • Food, Fun, Family and Music Night

· 4:30-6:00 pm – grilling, lawn games, and the Special Delivery Band will play.

The fire, police, and bookmobile will also be present.

Saturday, June 3rd • Service, Cycle and Stroll Saturday (meet at Messiah)

· 9:00 am – Nature Walk (1.75 miles, challenging)

· 9:30 am – Creation Clean-up Walk (1 mile)

· 10:00 am – North Mankato Prairie Loop Bike Ride (3.5 miles)

Sunday, June 4th • Outdoor Worship

· 10:00 am – Messiah Worshipers United
and ice cream treats following worship

Worship

This summer we are going back to the beginning – the beginning of the Bible, at least. A summer sermon series, “God’s Creative Connection”, technically begins on Pentecost. Why? Because it’s with the gift of the Holy Spirit that we begin to experience how God offers connection and relationship with us, in the age of the church that follows Jesus’ crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Those are the topics that have (rightly) occupied our worship time over the last few months, and as we move into the season of “ordinary time” or “time after Pentecost” we will discover ways in which God continues to connect to God’s children. We will discover that the lessons of connection and relationship first practiced in the book of Genesis still have relevance for us, in 2023.

We will begin the series with a Messiah Worshipers United Service on June 4, when we will celebrate creation (Genesis 1). Here’s hoping for good weather so that we can celebration the poetic beauty of creation with all of our senses, our words and our songs.

After that, we will spend the weeks from June 11 – July 16 hearing the stories of Abraham and Sarah and their family: Ishmael and Hagar, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob. In each story, we will be listening and looking for ways in which God is at work in their lives, and in our lives. It might be through the gift of hospitality, relationships with one another, or even the ways in which God redeems us when we make serious mistakes. Come join us each week: traditional services will be inside at 8:30 am, and contemporary services will be outside (weather permitting) at 10:00 am. (Planning ahead – the 10:00 am service on July 2nd will be inside as well.)

FOCP—STOMP Volunteers Needed for June 15—August 31

Messiah has agreed to help with FOCP – STOMP (the SummerTime Outreach Meal Program) again this summer. We are looking for volunteers would be available from 10:45 am – 12:35 pm to drive to several locations in Mankato to deliver cold lunch meals from mid-June through the end of August. We are looking for 2 volunteers every other Thursday. You can sign-up for 1 day or more, whatever works best for you. <https://signup.com/go/PCoNgny>

North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand

North Mankato Fun Days is July 6-9, 2023. Sign-up sheets to work the Pie and Brat Stand are available in the narthex or online <https://signup.com/go/tRhCgMW>. This opportunity is available for anyone ages 13+ and a great way to get scholarship service hours. For questions, contact the church office or text Lynell Senden @ 507-380-1483.

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

Lately, I've been struggling with this ongoing tension between trying to be positive but also realistic. It doesn't even seem to matter what the specific topic is; in anything and everything it seems as if I have to keep choosing between what often seems like false positivity or a cranky realism that doesn't seem to be at all helpful.

It started with changes in my physical health that I can't resolve despite lots of willpower and hard work. (What!? Our bodies do actually age!?) But it includes struggles that others are having where I don't know how to help, or I can't seem to make a difference, or my help isn't wanted. Then there's the state of the world where everything often seems so hopeless, yet I am trying so hard to not get sucked into the vortex of despair where too many seem to enjoy living.

Maybe the answer is in what Otis Moss III says when he claims "these aren't the darkest times...but humanity has a limited ability to see in the dark." <https://www.pulpitfiction.com/notes/tns10-3>.) In this podcast I've referenced, he goes on to say that the goal is transformation: to learn how to better see in the dark (i.e. in what is difficult and real). Perhaps it's a way to say we can seek to be BOTH realistic AND hopeful/positive. Certainly, the apostle Paul reminds us of this when he says that when we live in Christ, it's all new creation. (2 Cor. 5:16-17) Paul never promised an easy life for the followers of Christ; indeed, he often shared with his communities his own weaknesses and difficulties. So I think it's OK to be realistic about what's bothering us, what's difficult, what's not working....you get the idea. To pretend like nothing is wrong doesn't make us feel better, and it doesn't help those with whom we have relationships. At the same time, to dwell in the darkness of realism doesn't help either. Instead, maybe the answer is to name the darkness, then look for the light; a light which comes from a life in Christ. Even if it's only the flicker of a candle flame, it's light, and that small amount of light may be just enough to keep on hoping and praying for one more day. In other words, a small amount of the light of Christ's love might be just enough for us to see a little better in the dark.

In 2022 our Lenten series was based on the book *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler, a religion professor who has had plenty of personal struggles which she has shared in ways that I would describe as both realistic and positive. Her latest book is *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days*, and I want to share with you one of those blessings, called "for truth-telling – however bitter or sweet".

Blessed are you, resisting the urge to reframe.
You who are sick and tired of silver linings.

Blessed are you who risk sincerity, especially when the world around you craves a bright side.
You who speak honestly about what is right in front of you:

This is hard.

Things might not get better.

This really has gone horribly.

There may not be a different way.

Blessed are you in your gratitude and your pain, your pleasures and your limitations.

Blessed are you, the truth-teller.

And what a miracle it is when your candor finds a chorus that echoes back:

"Same".

The friend who will hear it.

The parent who will stomach it.

The partner who doesn't roll their eyes.

They hear you, and it feels like a revelation.

Every. Time.

May you feel your truths answered by this language of love,
changing where you can and confirming where you can't.

But loved, loved, loved all the same.

Refugee Update

Thank you for your ongoing financial gifts and gifts of time for the Cruz family! Warmer weather has been welcomed by everyone, and Ariac, Andrea and Randy are all enjoying their bikes. Coming up soon is an appointment with a legal firm to begin the process of application for asylum. We pray that their case is accepted and this long and arduous work can begin.



From the Church Council ...

—May Highlights—

Stewardship & Finance: As of April 30, contributions still look good: 36% of budget compared to 35% on average for the past 2 years. We currently find ourselves behind in income vs. expenses by \$6,081.

The council approved the following benevolences will be given for April-June: Connections, Backpack Program, and REACH.

Fellowship and Rec discussed the Pie & Brat stand for North Mankato Fun Days in July and the HOPening Weekend Community Event coming up the first weekend in June. Discussion on capital improvements needed include HVAC to replace a boiler, fix/replace some AC units.

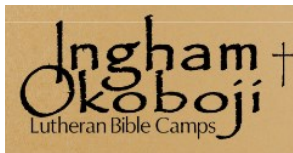
Next council meeting will be Sunday, June 11th after 10:00 am worship.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*
2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click on "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.



Youth Summer Activities



Vacation Bible School is June 19-22 from 12:30-5:00 pm at Christ the King. This is for Kindergarten—5th grade and costs \$20 per child. Registration is closed for Vacation Bible School week, June 19-22. If you missed the deadline and want to sign up your child, please talk with Pastor Trish.



Volunteers are needed VBS June 19-22. This is open to both middle and high school students. You can register to volunteer at this link: <https://forms.gle/oVyStezyehs5GhXB6>

SERVICE & SUN



Service & Sun —July 10-12th from 8 am-5 pm. Sign up by June 20th. This is a joint venture with area ELCA churches; students can bring a friend too! The activity is open to grades 6-12 (note change!) Drop-off and pick-up at Messiah. Total cost is \$50 which pays for the activities, transportation and ice cream. Service activities include Connections, the Backpack Program, Global Health Ministries and more. Sunshine activities are the Owatonna Water Park, Como Zoo and a Moon Dogs game. <https://ctkmankato.elxiochms.com/external/form/663f2358-ae6e-492d-abbf-d470d47f6775> or the QR code to the left. Any questions, please see Pastor Trish.



Valleyfair Day on August 9th for grades 6-12. As of this writing, we are partnering with the other Mankato area ELCA churches and hope to take a bus to/from the park. Cost will include bus and your ticket; money for food will also be needed.

last
SUNDAY
sessions

High School Students - Mark you calendars for June 25th!

It's time again for a "Last Sunday Session". We will meet at Sibley Park at 3:30 PM for some games and a picnic. Watch for an email from Pastor Trish to RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

Congratulations to all the 2023 Graduates

The Messiah family wishes these graduates all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Full Name: Zachary Daniel Benson
Parents: Dan and Lisa Benson
Siblings: Christa, Erica, and Josh
High School Activities: Hockey, Baseball, and Link Crew
Future plans: Undecided



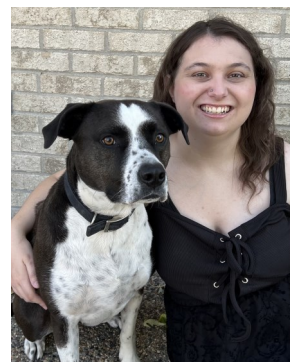
Full Name: Garret Layne Donkin
Parents: Sean and Jen Donkin
Siblings: Blake
Favorite Class: Medical Interventions
High School Activities: Football, Alpine Skiing, Lacrosse, Boy Scouts
Favorite Movie: Batman
Who is your hero?: My dad
Describe yourself with 3 words: Fun, Good natured, Happy
Future plans: Attend Gustavus Adolphus College for Exercise Physiology and then pursue a doctorate in Physical Therapy. Also plan to play football at Gustavus.



Full Name: Ashley Hamerski
Parents: Kelly and Dustin Runkle
Siblings: Lucas, Jaxon and Tyler
Favorite Class: AP Psychology
High School Activities: Softball
Favorite TV Show: The Office
Favorite Book: Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
Favorite Song: Amazing by Rex Orange County
Describe yourself with 3 words: Sociable, Hardworking, Open-minded
Future plans: I plan to go to the University of Minnesota to major in Psychology.



Full Name: Ciera G. Henkelman
Parents: Paul and Gina Henkelman
Siblings: Krista, Jordan, Ellie, Megan
Favorite Class: Criminal Justice
High School Activities: AVID, Theater Tech
Favorite TV Show: Criminal Minds
Favorite Movie: Beauty and the Beast
Favorite Song: Hope by NF
Who is your hero?: My dog Nova
Describe yourself with 3 words: Quiet, Opinionated, Different
Future plans: I plan to go to college for Criminal Justice. My goal is to attend the FBI Academy in VA. If I am not able to do that I would like to work with the K9 unit.



Graduates not pictured: Aiden McCabe, Reagan Thompson

Congratulations to all the 2023 Graduates

The Messiah family wishes these graduates all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

Full Name: Samantha Elizabeth Jensen
Parents: Laura & Erik Jensen **Siblings:** Brianna and Kylee
Favorite Class: Geography
High School Activities: Dance, FFA
Favorite Movie: Jesus Revolution
Favorite Book: Who Are You Following by Sadie Robertson
Favorite Song: Flowers by Lauren Spencer Smith
Who is your hero?: My parents and siblings
Describe yourself with 3 words: Funny, Outgoing, Loving
Future plans: Attending Grand Canyon University for Nursing School in Phoenix, AZ



Full Name: Donovan Edward Lagred
Parents: Nathan & Juanita Lagred
Siblings: Malia and Gracia
Favorite Class: Communications
High School Activities: Lacrosse, 4-H, Downhill skiing, Wake surfing, Skateboarding
Favorite TV Show: On My Block
Favorite Song: Yellow Ledbetter by Pearl Jam
Describe yourself with 3 words: Independent, Loyal, Hard working
Future plans: Alexandria Technical College for motorcycle powersports



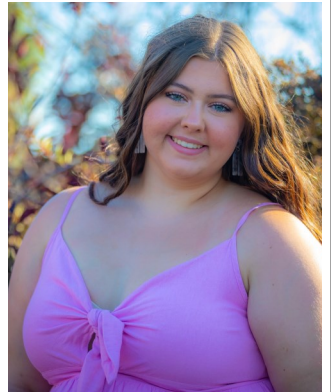
Full Name: Caleb Bradley Ous
Parents: Greg & Sheila Ous **Siblings:** Jacob Ous
Favorite Class: Music
High School Activities: Adaptive Bowling and Miracle League Baseball
Favorite TV Show: 80's Rock on YouTube—Drummers
Favorite Book: Anything John Deere
Favorite Song: Don't Stop Believin' by Journey
Who is your hero?: Anyone who brings me joy
Describe yourself with 3 words: Courageous, Happy, Social
Future plans: Continue to attend Mankato West HS and participate in the Life Skills Classroom.



Full Name: Shannon Grace Soost
Parents: Jeremy & Amy Soost
Siblings: Katelyn and Megan
Favorite Class: Calculus or College Math
High School Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, 4-H, FFA, Student Council, National Honor Society, Band, Youth group
Favorite Movie: The Blind Side
Favorite Song: She Had Me at Heads Carolina by Cole Swindell
Who is your hero?: My parents
Describe yourself with 3 words: Leader, Hardworking, Reliable, Caring
Future plans: Attend South Dakota State University, Major in Animal Science on the pre-vet track



Full Name: Ava Rae True
Parents: Pamela True and Jason True
Siblings: Greta and Kendyl
Favorite Class: Psychology
High School Activities: Job's Daughters, Dance, Teaching Sunday School
Favorite Movie: Legally Blonde
Favorite Book: Too many to choose
Favorite Song: Complex by Katie Gregson-MacLeod
Who is your hero?: Mr. Sipe
Describe yourself with 3 words: Energetic, Compassionate, Determined
Future plans: Attend University of South Dakota, Major in Criminal Justice and Sociology with plan to go to law school.



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!

**Please note 10:00 am worship for the summer is outdoors (weather permitting), except July 2nd & 30th will be indoors.*

<u>8:30 am</u>		<u>10:00 am</u>	
6/4	Messiah Worships United Outdoors at 10:00 am	Ushers: Karla Elmore & Mark Gulden Reader: Lucette Hurley Comm: Marlene Buker & Jan Waller FB Live: Steve Reedstrom	
6/11	Ushers: Greg Guyer & Greg Ous Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: Steve Jones	Karla Elmore & Mark Gulden Kimberly Moore Sheryl Gulden & Dee Nolan TBD (call office if interested)	
6/18	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: Steve Jones	Dave Dahl & Chuck Rafferty Shawna Merrill Kara Pipes & Autumn Pipes TBD (call office if interested)	
6/25	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman Reader: Greg Suskovic Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Dave Dahl & Chuck Rafferty April Rosendale Phyllis & Peter Skadahl TBD (call office if interested)	
<u>8:30 am</u>		<u>10:00 am</u>	
7/2*	Ushers: Scott Madigan & Les Altenburg Reader: Linda Wenkel Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Kay Lund Darci Karau & Jim Jilek TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)	
7/9	Ushers: Scott Madigan & Less Altenburg Reader: Georgia Holmes Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Mike Hanson FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Marlene Buker Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler TBD (call office if interested)	
7/16	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Kyle Vogt Reader: Chuck Dulas Comm: Judy Funk & Elaine Fossen FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Jodi Himmer & Shawna Merrill TBD (call office if interested)	
7/23	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Kyle Vogt Reader: Kim Henrickson Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Eva Borneke Deb & Frank Steichen TBD (call office if interested)	
7/30*	Messiah Worships United INDOORS TODAY at 10:00 am	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Bill Halstead Reader: Lynn Klaber Comm: Marlene Buker & Jan Waller FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows	2 Office Closed @ noon Family Fun Night 4:30-6:30 (grilling & games) w/Special Delivery Band @ 5:00 pm	3 Service, Cycle, & Stroll 9:00 am Nature Walk 9:30 am Creation Clean-up Walk 10:00 am Bike Ride
					HOPening Weekend	
4 10:00 am Worship United Outdoor (FB Live)	5 9:00 am SAIL Group	6 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	7 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	9 Office Closed @ noon	10
11 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band Outdoor 11:00 am Council Meeting	12 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Event	13 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	14 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:15 am STOMP	16 Office Closed @ noon	17
					Pastor Trish Off June 12-17	
18 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band Outdoor	19 9:00 am SAIL Group	20 10:00 Private Event 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	21 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	23 Office Closed @ noon	24
					VBS @ Christ the King 12:30-5:00 pm	
25 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/band Outdoor 3:30 pm Last Sunday Session @ Shiley Park for HS Group	26 9:00 am SAIL Group	27 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	28 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:15 am STOMP	30 Office Closed @ noon	



Messiah Lutheran Church
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North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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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: Craig V, Earl W, Judy F, Arthur H, Sally M, Mike F, Heather S, Trudy N, Mike T, Linda R, Bonnie O, Patty A, Neal L, Lowell R, Tom T, Emma M

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Dan P, Carley, Alex

Prayers for the refugee family we are assisting: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Prayers of Sympathy for Bob and Cindy Rothenbuehler on the passing of Bob's brother, Randy.

Good Earth Village Wish List

Good Earth Village sent a list of items they are looking to gather donated items such as Program Supplies (ie: tents, life jackets, etc.), Property Supplies (ie: couch, chairs, vehicles, etc.), and Retreat Ministry Supplies (ie: bluetooth stereo PA system, Blu Ray player, etc.). For a full list of wishes check out their website: <https://goodearthvillage.org/wishlist>.

Summer Office Hours

The office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Beginning the week of May 29th, summer office hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday > 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Friday > 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Summer Worship Times

Summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 4th.

8:30 am—Traditional Indoors

10:00 am—Contemporary Outdoors