



February 2023

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

First, a personal note: thank you for so many well wishes and words of encouragement as I get ready for a new knee. It is much appreciated! As an FYI, I'm hoping to return to a regular schedule by the end of the month, and plan to be back on a part-time basis much sooner than that, but it might depend on how well I follow the instructions of the physical therapists (LOL). In the meantime, you can contact the office, or check in with me by phone or email for any pastoral needs.

I want to give you a sneak preview into our worship series for the Lenten season, which starts with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. This is often a special service for many of us, as we include a remembrance of Holy Baptism, celebration of Holy Communion, and a time of communal confession with the Imposition of Ashes. With this traditional act of worship we begin our 40 days of Lenten observance, a time of introspection and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Lutherans have a long tradition of an additional midweek Lenten service for the 5 weeks leading up to Holy Week, and at Messiah, that tradition includes a soup supper. Join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 for a meal, followed by worship at 6:15 pm. We begin this schedule on Ash Wednesday.

Our theme for those midweek services is "With Awe and Love", a 5 week series based on Luther's Small Catechism. Everything is still in the planning process, but my intent for these 5 weeks is two-fold. First, I want to offer us all a refresher on some of the things we probably learned back in the days when many attended what we commonly call "confirmation". We will be using the Small Catechism as a basis for our worship, and spend a week on each of 5 major parts of Luther's teaching: the 10 Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism and Holy Communion. But I also want to give you a flavor for our Wednesday night activities at Messiah – when our middle school students are doing their learning. They will be helping to lead the worship services each week. You might also want to come without expectation about what a worship service should be like – we tend to do things a bit differently at our regular Wednesday worship services, and I thought it might be fun to let you experience some of that for yourselves.

Sundays during Lent are considered "Little Easters" (you'll note that if you count, there are actually 46 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday), and our theme for our Sundays during this season is "Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith." We are currently in "Year A" of our three-year lectionary rotation, and in these weeks we discover several people in scripture who are seeking something, and coming with a number of questions for themselves. We will also be inviting our own questions to ponder and explore, and in doing so, I hope we discover that questioning can often lead us deeper into our lives of faith and into a closer walk with God. Come seeking; come and see.

Worship Services in February

February 5th: Messiah Worships United @ 10:00 am. Kim Henrickson will be leading worship for us and providing the message. The gospel reading for the day is Matthew 5:13-20. You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world! "Let your light so shine before people..." Holy Communion will be celebrated.

February 12th: Messiah Worships United @ 10:00 am. Marlene Buker will be presiding at worship this day, and Heather VonBank will be sharing a message about her "border immersion visit" with ministry partners in Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX. This trip is sponsored by the SEMN Synod of the ELCA and is designed for participants to better understand the realities of the U.S. immigration process. Communion will be served.

February 19th: Worship services return to our regular 8:30 and 10:30 am times. Pastor Trish expects to be back, and will be joined by Amy Klugherz from "A Fresh Start" to learn more about this nonprofit, the ways it benefits our community, and the ways we can be involved. Communion will be served. We will also have Installation of our new and returning council members on this day.

February 22nd: Ash Wednesday Worship service at 6:15 pm. Imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. We will also kick off our Lenten theme for the successive Sundays in Lent: "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." Come early for a soup supper beginning at 5:30 pm.

February 26th: The first Sunday of Lent. Our gospel reading is the temptation of Jesus from Matthew 4:1-11. The question for our Lenten theme will be "who will *you* listen to?"

Midweek Lenten Services

Midweek services during Lent are open to all. A soup supper will be served each week at 5:30 pm with a free will offering, and worship services beginning at 6:15 pm.

We are also looking for volunteers to provide cookies for the Wednesday evening meals during lent. Please click on the link or call the office if interested in signing up for a week. <https://signup.com/go/mGirzCa> Lenten soup suppers begin Wednesday, February 22nd on Ash Wednesday.

Messiah Ski Day at Mt. Kato / Last Sunday Sessions



Messiah families and people of all ages who like to ski are welcome to join us for an afternoon of fun at Mt. Kato on Sunday, February 19th from 2-9 pm. We expect there will still be plenty of snow! If you already have a season pass, join us. For those that don't have a season pass and would like to join us, **please call the church office by February 8th** to let us know. If we get enough people, we can get a group discount. If we don't, we would need to pay full price for lift

Crossroads "Thank You"

Thank you to Messiah Lutheran Church for providing Lunch for-a-Buck at Crossroads Campus Ministry on Tuesday, January 17th. Barb & Denny Meier, Britta Petersen, Joanna Petersen, Jim Jilek, and Lynn Klaber cooked and served a hearty lunch of beef & vegetarian chili, French bread, and cookies to 28 hungry lunch goers during this second Tuesday of the new semester. Your volunteers also collected \$24.10 in donations that will help us fund the continued purchase of the lettuce salad, beverages and table supplies for future lunches. Students look forward to these weekly hot lunches to help them get through the day. In fact, our office received several calls over the break from students asking if we were still offering Lunch For-a-Buck during winter break (we weren't). Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

Sharing Tree "Thank You"

To Everyone at Messiah,

Thank You to the wonderful people of Messiah who donated the gifts that were given to us and others to make our Christmas better. Also to the children who made ornaments and cookies. I set the nativity ornament out right away and put the beautiful wreath ornament on the tree. Everything was so special and appreciated. God Bless You All! Happy New Year!



February Collections

Our February Collection will be for “A Fresh Start”. This non-profit was started in 2020 and at this time is an all-volunteer organization. A Fresh Start supports those impacted by homelessness by offering some of the essentials needed for a home to those who are emerging from homelessness or poverty. The organization takes referrals from local social service providers, then tries to provide the essentials needed in a home – everything from furniture, bedding or towels to kitchen items, storage containers and more – to give folks a fresh start.

Amy Klugherz will be joining us at our worship services on February 19 to tell us more. She will be speaking at both services, PLUS she will be available and visiting with us BETWEEN services at an “informal adult forum” for more details, history, ideas, etc. Next, throughout the month of February, we will be collecting a variety of items that they provide. A Thrivent Action Team grant is also in the works that will be used for some donations as well. Here’s how you can help:

Do you have furniture in need of a good home? A Fresh Start can use furniture of all kinds – tables and chairs, sofas, beds and dressers – if you have items you’d like to donate, contact A Fresh Start directly at 507-594-8493 or assistance@afreshstartmankato.com to arrange a drop-off time.

When it comes to donations, please remember a couple of A Fresh Start’s principles: “What we do is a hand up, not a hand out. We are planting a seed of hope.” and “People take better care of their possessions when they are of a quality they can be proud of enjoy.” With that in mind, donations can include:

New or **lightly used items:**

- For the kitchen – pots/pans, dishes, silverware, drinking cups. Kitchen knives, hot pads, kitchen towels, measuring cups, mixing spoons, spatulas. Can openers, cutting boards, food storage containers.
- For the bedroom – sheets, comforters or blankets.
- For the bathroom – cleaning products, toilet bowl brush, bath towels and wash clothes, shower curtain and hooks.
- Other – broom/dust pan, lamp, booster/high chair, toilet paper and other paper products, dish soap, laundry soap, laundry basket, hangers.

Messiah Food Ministry Volunteer Opportunities

Messiah has committed to volunteer as a congregation for the following organizations. 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, all additional dates through April are listed below.

Crossroads Lunch for a Buck

Crossroads Campus Ministry is for students of all backgrounds and beliefs who need food to sustain them through challenging times. Messiah is looking for volunteers to make food, deliver and serve food.

February 21

March 21

April 18

Connections Shelter

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.

February 27 & 28

March 30 & 31

April 21 & 22

If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a donation to purchase the food.

Welcome New Members

We have quite a few families that were welcomed during worship on January 29th and we have more to be welcomed on March 19th. These families include:

Paul and Jane Zwieg	Kat Parrish	Chris & Karissa, Beau, Brooks, Bryanna, & Braxton Baukol
Janell and Bob Spelbrink	Matt Neubauer	Brittany Bowman, Kambrie & Brett Konz
Bonnie and Wayne Gunsolus	Judy Jackson (associate)	Adam & Angie, Liliana and Brandt Chatleain
		Jim & Nicole, Nolan and Covan Panko

Please look for these new members and give them a warm welcome!

Quilting

Mark your calendars! Quilting began in January. It is always great coming back together to resume our work and fellowship once again. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of January, February, March and April from 9:30 am—3:00 pm. 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.

Anti-Racism Team

The Anti-Racism monthly team meetings are currently on hold while the Hope small group book study is taking place. Once this group is ready to resume, we will let everyone know.

Offering Envelopes

Due to the 'supply chain' challenges of our usual offering envelope printing company, we decided to print our own this year. Our 'in house' created offering envelopes are now available in the narthex. We've printed about 20 per family. If you run out, just let us know and we'll print more. If we missed you and you don't find your envelopes on the table, let us know that as well and we're happy to print some for you. If you are unable to pick your envelopes up in person, please contact the church office and we'll mail them out to you.

Refugee Family Update

Ariac, Andrea, Randy and Kamil arrived from Nicaragua by way of the southern border of the US on Saturday, December 17th. It was an unexpected arrival for both them and us! "Us" is the Welcome Team, a partnership between Messiah and other Mankato area ELCA churches: Grace, Bethlehem, Christ the King and Calvary. Since their arrival, both the family and the team have been very busy! Shellee is a Grace member who made room in her home on a temporary basis; and at this writing they are preparing to move into an apartment of their own, with Messiah members Greg and Sheila as their soon-to-be landlords. (And a big thanks to Barb for making that housing match happen!) Ariac and Andrea are currently enrolled in ELL classes, and team members are working on getting the medical and educational needs for Randy met as well. Perry and Judy have spearheaded the transportation needs and volunteers. And many of you have already donated household items, gift cards/money and your time to help support this family in their journey. Thanks to so many of you for ALL your work, commitment and passion! We expect to hear from the fundraising team in February about an ongoing opportunity to support this family; we also hope to have them come and visit us at Messiah so you can hear their story for yourselves. Plenty more opportunities to help will be coming, so stay tuned.

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 Activities

Sunday School

Mark Your Calendars

February 5th and February 12th—Sunday School will be from 9:15-10:00 am, instead of 10:15 as we are having Messiah Worships United services starting at 10:00 on these days. Please join us as we worship after Sunday School.

February 26th—(*as close to 9:15 am as possible!*) On this first Sunday of Lent, Sunday School students and families are invited to join Pastor Trish for a family lesson in which we will explore and learn more about what this particular season of the church year is all about.

April 30th—Prayer Pillow Blessing during worship for Pre-School through 2nd Graders.

4th Graders First Communion Retreat

The First Communion Retreat will be on **Saturday, March 11, 2023**. Invitations have been sent to 4th grade students and parents. It is also open to others who may have missed previous opportunities to attend. On **Sunday, March 12th**, students will want to be sure to come to Sunday School to paint their communion cups. Contact the office to register by February 17th. First Communion will be held at both worship services on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Middle School Ministries

8th Grade Retreat

8th grade students are reminded that their 8th grade retreat preparing for Affirmation of Baptism is Saturday, February 25th. We will leave Messiah at 9:30 am and return by 5:00 pm. They will spend the day at Gustavus Adolphus College - learning, exploring, enjoying a great lunch and hopefully having a little fun in it all!

Scholarship Application Information

This will be the second year in which the congregation of Messiah will be giving a scholarship to any member of the congregation attending post-secondary education. Please remember, scholarships are not just for our high school seniors – anyone attending or planning to attend a post-secondary institution in 2023 is eligible. The scholarship is a \$250 award, renewable for up to four years/\$1000 total.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST YEAR RECIPIENTS

- Must be a confirmed member of Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Have completed 25 hours of volunteer work in the church or community. See list of approved activities.
- Be attending an accredited college, university, or technical college.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SECOND YEAR RECIPIENTS

Write a 250-500 statement highlighting what you like about Messiah Lutheran Church and any suggestions on how to make the church experience more rewarding.

PROCESS

- Submit application & volunteer form or essay by March 1, 2023 to the office, Pastor Trish, or a member of the Scholarship Committee.
- Notification of awards will be by May 1, 2023.
- Recognition of awards will be on Graduation Recognition Sunday.
- Scholarship is distributed after successful completion of the fall semester at the approved post-secondary institution. Submit unofficial transcript by December 31, 2023.

SCHOLARSHIP INFO AND FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.messiahnorthmankato.com/club1706>

CHURCH COUNCIL

January Highlights

Financials—Income for December was \$40,425.53 and expenses were \$38,637.51 -- resulting in income over expenses by \$1,788.02. Year-to-date income over expenses by \$2973.

The council discussed 2023 budget, property needs, and planned for Pastor Trish's medical leave. It was approved to give \$2500 from the 2022 budget in support of the refugee family.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, February 19th after the late worship.

Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

2/5	8:30 am Messiah Worships United at 10:00 am	10:00 am Ushers: Kyle Vogt & Greg Guyer Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Janet Jones & Cheryl Christofferson
2/12	Messiah Worships United at 10:00 am	Ushers: Jon & Jeran Karau Reader: Lynn Klaber Comm: Anna & Jim Jilek
2/19	8:30 am Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Chuck Dulas Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Elaine Fossen & Judy Funk	10:30 am Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore Lucette Hurley Deb & Frank Steichen
2/26	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Chuck Dulas Reader: Mike Hanson Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer	Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore April Rosendale Darci Karau & Gina Henkelman
3/5	8:30 am Ushers: Greg Ous & Ron Leiferman Reader: Diane Halvorson Comm: Judy Funk & Cheryl Christofferson	10:30 am Mark Gulden & Karla Elmore Samantha Erickson Sheryl Gulden & Gina Henkelman
3/12	Ushers: Greg Ous & Ron Leiferman Reader: Janet Jones Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer	Mark Gulden & Karla Elmore Joan Klanderud Anna Jilek & Jim Jilek
3/19	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Scott Madigan Reader: Kim Henrickson Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost	Peter Skadahl & Bob Rothenbuehler Jeff Pribyl Darci Karau & Jan Waller
3/26	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Scott Madigan Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Elaine Fossen & Diane Halvorson	Peter Skadahl & Bob Rothenbuehler Shirley Rosenau Deb & Frank Steichen

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	3	4	
5 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worships United (FB also)	6 9:00 am SAIL Group	7 9:30 am Quilting	8 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	10	11	
12 9:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Messiah Worships United (FB also) 1:30-4 pm MN River Conference @ LeSueur	13 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Mtg	14 9:30 am Quilting	15 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	17	18	
19 <i>Council Installation</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band) 11:30 am Council Meeting 6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	20 9:00 am SAIL Group	21 10:45 am Deliver and Serve Food for Crossroads 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 5:30 pm Evening Meal 6:15 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 pm NO MSM Class time	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:00 pm Bible Study	24	25 9-5 pm 8th Grade Retreat @ GAC (meet @ Messiah)	
26 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB also) 9:15 am Sunday School Family Day 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (band)	27 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	28 9:30 am Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	Pastor Trish on leave through mid/late February.				



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In our thoughts and prayers: Ben K, Craig V, Earl W, Judy F, Millie, Arthur H, Tom T, Sally M, Debbie S, Suzanne H, Mike F, Heather S, Trudy N, Mike T, Logan, Mollie D, Tom F, Linda R, Carolyn L, Bonnie O, Patty A, Chuck R, Neal L, Wanda C, Katelyn S, Ruby M

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 to Jean Zandstra and Naomi Langsjoen’s family on the death of Jean’s mother, Shirley Klosterman.

Online Worship and Winter Travelers

If you join worship via online regularly, or once in awhile, or if you will be heading south for the winter or taking a vacation and plan to join us for worship, feel free to pick up as many pre-packaged elements for communion as you might want or need anytime. If you don’t see any or enough sitting out in the narthex, just ask.