



# MESSIAH

lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

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

*Sharing the love of Jesus*

**June 2025**

## **“GATHER”**



*This new social program, led by the Social Outreach Ministry Team, starts Wednesday, June 4th at 10:30 am and will meet weekly.*

“Gather” is for adults of all ages seeking more social interaction with others. Join us at 10:30 for coffee and socialization, stay for a free will offering lunch. If you need a ride, contact the church office.

Please sign up weekly on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call the church office, so we can plan for lunch.

## **High School Bowling Event**

Join in some bowling fun on **Sunday, June 8th from 4-6 p.m.** The cost of bowling will be paid by the church; youth may bring money to purchase food. This event is for all youth entering grades 9-12 and will be chaperoned by Pastor LaDonna and Sonja Parr-Baker. *Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, June 4th.*

## **Messiah Senior Lunch**

The next senior lunch will be at Hooligan’s on **Tuesday, June 10th at 11:30 am.** This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. Join us for good food, fun and conversation. Come and go as you please. Call the church office (387-5537) or email [Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com) if you have any questions.

## **Congregational Book Read—Celebration Potluck**

Join us **Tuesday, June 17th at 5:30 pm** for a potluck celebration to mark the end of our congregational reading of “A Bigger Table” by John Pavlovitz. Enjoy food and fellowship, even if you didn’t read the book. We might also preview our next book. Please bring a dish to share or come without a dish to share; there will be plenty of food.

## **Messiah Worships United**

Join us at **10:00 am on Sunday, June 29th** as we worship united. This will be a blended worship with traditional and contemporary themes. We also have the joy of welcoming Pastor Dave Christiansen as our guest pastor again. Enjoy coffee and a treat after worship and have the opportunity to have fellowship with people you might not usually see.

## **Free Piano**

Are you or someone you know looking for a “starter” piano? We are giving away the one in our Gathering Place. The new owner must make arrangements for moving. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

## **Summer Worship Schedules & Office Hours**

Summer worship times begin on Sunday, June 1st—8:30 am and 10:00 am.

Outdoor worships will be the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 am with a rain date of the 4th Sunday.

Please bring your lawn chairs and find a great spot on the lawn to enjoy worship.

Summer office hours run through the end of August. Monday—Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Friday’s 8:30 am-12 noon.

## **- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -**

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

Before I moved to Mankato, I lived on the North Shore of Boston, right on the Atlantic Ocean. Living in the presence of such a rugged, voluminous, vast, watery creation was a new experience for me. I grew up thousands of miles from and only visited one for the first time as a young adult. As beautiful as the Ocean on the North Shore was, I really had to befriend it. The noise of the waves and the uncontrollable way they crashed into the shoreline at their own pace and rhythm at high and low tide was overwhelming to me, at first. I often felt more of a threat from the ocean than the typical, relaxing feeling many get, especially from tropical beaches.

One of my parishioners would regularly ask me, "Have you been to the ocean today?" She often made comments about how healing the water, the shoreline, and the ocean air were. She encouraged me week by week, month by month, to go to the water, regularly and often.

She was right. As I visited the ocean waters as often as I could, I could sense there was something happening deep inside of me. Relaxation? Yes. Renewal? Yes. A heightened awareness of the Spirit of the the creator? Yes. Healing? Yes. And, more than those things, was this sense of awe... awe at the power of the waves, awe at the beauty in the water at sunrise and sunset... awe at the gifts in the water the fish that supported the local economy and the dancing joy of whales and seals. Awe that I was caught up in a life-giving ecology that reflected and connected me with God and God's creative work.

One could say that my time of living with the ocean, transformed me in to a purveyor of awe. A purveyor is one who collects or warehouses something. Beginning at the water's edge and expanding to many other times and places, I am becoming a purveyor of awe. And, from that storehouse of awe flows the fruits of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, generosity, faithfulness and self-control.



There is much around each of us, wherever we live, to stir up experiences of awe and with them, our connection to our awesome God. I experience a similar kind of awe and its spiritual gifts in other ways, like a walk in the woods, the joyful interaction between a parent and a child, watching the tender care of a man for his aging and ill partner, in the dance of a young ballerina, in music, in the smell of a campfire, the sight of acres and acres of rich black Minnesota soil, and the list goes on and on.

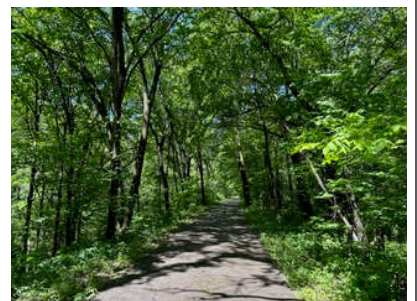
During the months of July and August, in our Sunday worship services, we will explore this sense of awe and wonder and its connection to our relationship with God and God's world, especially the gifts it can bring as we live in a time of challenge, change, discouragement, and uncertainty. We'll explore how God's gift of awe can anchor us in God's abiding love and grace.

We'll also supplement the Sunday worship experiences with a mid-week experience of wonder and awe. "Wonder-Full Wednesdays" evenings will offer, on alternating weeks, 1) brief walks in nature as a place to receive and collect experiences awe and 2) an introduction of the spiritual practice of centering or meditative prayer. Watch the weekly announcements for more information.

I hope and pray you have and AWEsome summer! Together, let's become purveyors of awe and connection to God. Gratefully,

### **Wonder-Full Wednesdays**

Coming in July and August at 6 p.m. Gatherings to experience God's awesome presence in nature and in prayer. On the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays, people of all ages and families meet for a 1.5 - 2 mile walk that will connect the gifts of nature with our spiritual lives. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays Pastor LaDonna will introduce, and participants will learn, the practice of centering or meditative prayer. Look for more specifics on where we will meet each week, in the weekly announcements and on Facebook.



# SUMMER TIME



## Summer Lawn and Garden Upkeep

It's not too late to sign up to help for the summer.  
If you are interested in helping mow and/or gardening,  
please let the office know.

Church office—5074-387-5537 or  
messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com



## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

SEE Bible Study is taking a summer break. Look for more information in the fall for bible study to begin again.

## Messiah Directory Updates Due June 30th

Please submit directory info by the end of June. Fill out this form <https://forms.gle/pyNo8StMrezrZLTd8>, click the QR code to the right or fill out a paper copy in the narthex. You can upload or email a photo. *If you would like someone to take your photo, let the office know.*



## Summer Youth Activities



### CHRIST THE KING—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CTK is hosting VBS this summer from June 23-26 from 8:00 am—12:30 pm.

It will be lead by Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

Final day to register is Monday, June 9th.

### GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP

offers a youth Christ-centered summer experience of welcome, belonging, camp activities, and Bible study. There are also special weeks for family camp and grandparent/grandchildren. Check out their offerings at [gllm.org](http://gllm.org).



GREEN LAKE  
LUTHERAN  
MINISTRIES



## Pie & Brat Stand

Our Pie and Brat Stand is an annual fundraiser to support Messiah missions, needs & various activities throughout the year. This year, Fun Days is scheduled to run Wednesday, July 9 - Sunday, July 13th.

Individuals ages 13+ may work the stand but ALL ages are able to support it by purchasing some or all of the delicious menu items: grilled dogs, brats or chicken, chips, whole dill pickles, root beer floats, and most importantly...pie and ice cream. Check your summer calendars and consider signing up for a shift or two. Bring a friend to join in the fun. Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/KnGTBQk> or scan the QR code.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the behind the scenes of this fun project, contact Lynell Senden @ 507-380-1483. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



# Congratulations

## Class of 2025

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

**Full Name:** Evelyn Marie Erickson  
**Parents:** Samantha and Mike Erickson  
**Siblings:** Zach and Stan  
**Favorite Class:** Math and Spanish  
**High School Activities:** Softball, Cross Country, National Honor Society, Hope Squad, Pep Band  
**Favorite Movie:** Peanut Butter Falcon  
**Favorite Book:** A Man Call Ove by Fredrik Backman  
**Favorite Song:** Company by Mark Ambor  
**Who is your hero?:** my mom  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** kind, thoughtful, hard-working  
**Future plans:** Attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for business



**Full Name:** Jillian Olsen  
**Parents:** Julie and Rick Olsen  
**Siblings:** Steven  
**Favorite Class:** Science  
**High School Activities:** Softball, Basketball, Band, Jazz Band, NHS  
**Favorite Show:** Brooklyn Nine-Nine  
**Favorite Author:** Allen Eskens  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** funny, athletic, smart  
**Future plans:** I will be continuing my education and softball career at Carthage College.



**Full Name:** Steven Olsen  
**Parents:** Julie and Rick Olsen  
**Siblings:** Jillian  
**Favorite Class:** Government  
**High School Activities:** Golf  
**Favorite Show:** The Big Bang Theory  
**Favorite Book:** The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** adventurous, energetic, driven  
**Future plans:** Attend South Central College to study HVAC



**Full Name:** Siri Audree Olson  
**Parents:** Brent and Molly Olson  
**Siblings:** Ivan and Isaac  
**Future plans:** Attend Gustavus Adolphus to study bio-chem and play viola





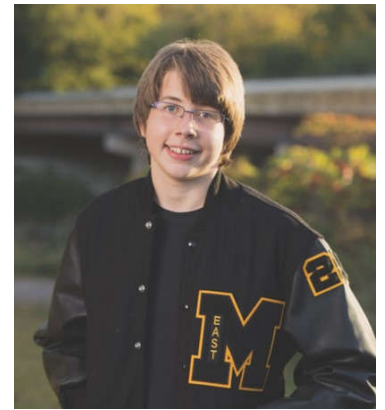
# Congratulations to the Class of 2025

Not Pictured: Thora Bratlie, Kaitlyn Landgraff, Violet Menk, and Olivia Todtleben

**Full Name:** Ashley Elaine Pipes  
**Parents:** Gregory and Kara  
**Siblings:** Autumn, Lily, and Lauren  
**Favorite Class:** AP Biology and AP Psychology  
**High School Activities:** National Honor Society, HOSA-Future Health Professionals, Key Club, Golf, Math League, Peer Tutor, Student Council, Link and Crew Leader  
**Favorite Show:** Jessie  
**Favorite Book:** Unwind by Neal Shusterman  
**Favorite Song:** L.o.v.e. by Frank Sinatra  
**Who is your hero?:** I'd love to give credit to Isaac Newton for developing calculus and being the first to apply it to physics. However, since physics gave me such a hard time in high school, I think I'll have to give this credit to my mom instead.  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** methodical, humanitarian, principled  
**Future plans:** Attend U of M Twin Cities for a degree in molecular, cellular, developmental biology, and genetics. My goal is to further my education to become an anesthesiologist.



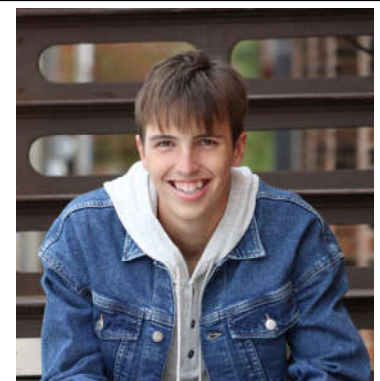
**Full Name:** Blake Charles Pribyl  
**Parents:** Karen Wright and Jeff Pribyl  
**Siblings:** Grant  
**Favorite Class:** Independent Art Study  
**High School Activities:** Cross Country, Alpine Skiing, Ecology Club, 4-H  
**Favorite Movie:** Interstellar  
**Favorite Book:** Roadside Picnic by Arkady Strugatsky and Boris Strugatsky  
**Favorite Song:** Ribs by The Crane Wives  
**Who is your hero?:** John Keating from "The Dead Poet's Society"  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** kind, nice, funny  
**Future plans:** Attend Minnesota State, Mankato and major in Biology and work in nature.



**Full Name:** Katelyn Soost  
**Parents:** Jeremy and Amy Soost  
**Siblings:** Shannon and Meagan  
**Favorite Class:** Elementary Peer Tutoring  
**High School Activities:** Volleyball, Basketball Manager, National Honor Society, Student Council, FFA, Choose to be Nice Elementary Ambassador  
**Favorite Movie:** 8 Seconds  
**Favorite Book:** Behind My Smile by Kellie Bullard  
**Favorite Song:** Things I Take for Granted by Larry Fleet  
**Who is your hero?** My Grandpa  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** compassionate, thoughtful, determined  
**Future plans:** Attend Dordt University in Sioux Center Iowa this fall, to study animal science.



**Full Name:** Adrian Jon Tobin  
**Parents:** Patrick and Tricia Tobin  
**Siblings:** Olivia and Grace  
**Favorite Class:** Math  
**High School Activities:** Soccer, Key Club, and National Honor Society  
**Favorite Movie:** MARVEL What If??  
**Favorite Book:** Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling  
**Favorite Song:** Stronger by Kanye West  
**Describe yourself with 3 words:** athletic, funny, smart  
**Future plans:** Attend University of Wisconsin-Stout majoring in Engineering Technologies



# COUNCIL UPDATES

**2025 council members:** Janet Jones, Nate Brekke, Jean Zandstra, Katie Hendrickson, Dustin Runkle, Swede Mundell, Julie Olsen and Greg Suskovic.

Through April, 2025 our tithes and offerings equal \$128,795 compared to \$122,967 this time last year. Expenses are at \$119,300 vs. \$115,957 in 2024. Snow removal accounts for most of the increase. As always, we are grateful to God for what he has first given us and Messiah's response to his graciousness.

*Church Council met on May 21st and the following was discussed:*

- Following positive feedback from the congregation, quotes are being obtained to proceed with a Capital Campaign.
- Dustin Runkle will lead the Property Team – volunteers needed to mow the lawn; please call the office to volunteer.
- Be cautious in North parking lot due to a hole near the drain. Cones mark the area, and the council is addressing it.
- The water fountain will be replaced by a new water fountain and bottle filler.
- Outdoor worshipers are scheduled, but assistance is needed for setup/takedown. Please prayerfully consider helping with this; it will involve only 3 Sundays during the summer.
- Messiah will begin an internal audit soon.
- The possibility of allowing donations and purchases via Venmo is being explored.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th at 6:30 pm.

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*
2. 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.



## June 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!

### 8:30 Worship

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>6/1</b>  | <b>Ushers:</b> Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman<br><b>Reader:</b> Renee Guyer<br><b>Comm:</b> Sylvia & Scott Norman           |
| <b>6/8</b>  | <b>Ushers:</b> Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman<br><b>Reader:</b> Sarah Suskovic<br><b>Comm:</b> Mary Borth & Diane Halvorson |
| <b>6/15</b> | <b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Scott Madigan<br><b>Reader:</b> Kim Henrickson<br><b>Comm:</b> Amy & Jeremy Soost               |
| <b>6/22</b> | <b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Scott Madigan<br><b>Reader:</b> Steve Lenz<br><b>Comm:</b> Deb Leiferman & Elaine Fossen        |
| <b>6/29</b> | <b>Worship United<br/>at 10:00 am</b>  |

### 10:00 Worship (note summer time change)

- |  |
|--|
| Paul Henkelman & Chuck Rafferty<br>Dee Nolan<br>Jodi & Mark Himmer   |
| Paul Henkelman & Chuck Rafferty<br>Joan Klanderud<br>Karna & Doug Stock                                      |
| Bob Rothenbuehler & Frank Steichen<br>Eva Borneke<br>Marlene & Jim Jilek                                     |
| Bob Rothenbuehler & Frank Steichen<br>Jan Waller<br>Marlene Buker & Gina Henkelman                           |
| <b>Ushers:</b> Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath<br><b>Reader:</b> Julie Olsen<br><b>Comm:</b> Jodi & Mark Himmer |

# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>3 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>4</b> 10:30 GATHER & Lunch	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>6 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b> 4-8 pm Private Event	<b>9 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>10</b> 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Private Meeting in Gathering Place	<b>11</b> 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>13 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am <b>Contemporary Worship (OUTSIDE)</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Worship Team	<b>17</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Book Read Potluck	<b>18</b> 10:30 GATHER & Lunch	<b>19</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>20 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon</b> <i>Pastor LaDonna gone</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>24</b> 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	<b>25</b> 10:30 GATHER & Lunch	<b>26</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>27 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Pastor LaDonna gone for continuing education</i>						
<b>29</b> 10:00 am <b>Worship United</b> (FB Live) <i>Pastor LaDonna gone</i>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group					



Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Boulevard  
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

Rev. LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: [Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: [Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

Label

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



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

**PRAYER**  
*list*

**Thoughts & Prayers:** Brooke, Cheryl, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Bob, Lisa, Swede, Heather, Jens, Greg, Kirk, Dave, Kimberly

**Continued Thoughts & Prayers:** Craig, Earl, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Peggy, Heather, Mollie, Carolyn, Elle, Jane, Brian, Barb, Carl

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

**Prayers for the asylum-seeking family** the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.



### Change in Messiah Communication



We are transitioning to a more engaging and reliable delivery system for Messiah emails, using Constant Contact software. It requires you to “opt” in, even if you currently receive our weekly “What’s Up” email. Guests are invited to sign-up as well, to stay informed of Messiah news and events. Please take a few moments to click the link below or scan the QR code to Opt-In to the new email communication.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/mb3YWRp/messiah>