



MESSIAH
lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

April 2025

- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

A couple of weeks ago I experienced the first lightning storm since I moved to Minnesota. It was such a beautiful display of light, power and energy. The storm was an awesome event to witness!

The lightening display was quite different from other places I have lived. In Massachusetts, where I lived most recently, where almost every piece of land has something built on it, it was hard to see the movement of lighting across the sky. There just weren't that many open spaces. Buildings often obstructed the view of the horizon.

Here, where the terrain is relatively flat and the prairies expansive, the horizon is open. A lightning storm, while holding danger, also holds beauty as the bolts of light race across the sky and illuminate the canopy of the heavens.

Like many of you, nature is one of those places where I feel God's presence in very tangible, refreshing and gorgeous ways! Catholic theologian, Richard Rohr, calls creation God's 1st testament. It is the first witness of God's good, loving, and gracious presence.

But it is not the only witness of God's presence, as we have been learning during of Wednesdays in Lent Soup and Learning time. God also is present to us in Jesus, who took on flesh and blood to experience life in our humanity. Martin Luther taught that the way in which we know God most intimately is through his suffering and death. On the cross we see that God knows what it is like to be human and the depth of despair, grief and pain that comes with being human.

Sunday, April 13, begins Holy Week, that time in the church year in which we sit in contemplation, awe and worship of the mystery of God's deep, deep love for each of us. From the shouts of "hosanna as Jesus enters Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday we will join the shouts of "hosanna!" that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. On Thursday of that week, Maundy Thursday, we'll gather like the disciples in the intimacy of that upper room. We will hear some of Jesus' final instructions about how we are to be in community together in his absence. We can choose to participate in hand washing and the fellowship meal of communion as way to anchor our life together in Jesus' absence. On Good Friday, we gather to hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death. We dare to see God in suffering, death and burial.

And then we wait in hope until Easter Sunday, April 20, when we gather to celebrate Christ's victory over death and the grave. We claim the assurance and promise that death will never have the last word over any one of us. The last word if Jesus' and it is a word of life!

This will be my first Holy Week and Easter with you. I look forward to sharing these rich and meaningful times of worship with you. Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are at 6:30 p.m. and our Sunday Services are at their regular 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Please mark the dates on your calendars and plan to participate. Invite a friend to join you!

In gratitude for each of you,
Pastor LaDonna

Lenten Wednesdays

On Lenten Wednesdays, through April 9th, meals will be served from 5:30 pm—6:15 pm. We will remain in the Gathering Place for Worship from 6:30—7:00 pm. Then from 7:00—7:30 pm we will have MSM & Adult Group Study on the topic of “Living Our Faith in Daily Life” led by Pastor LaDonna.

Quilting 2025

The Messiah Quilting group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays through the end of April. 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.*

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

We look forward to displaying all the finished quilts in May.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet on Saturday, April 12th 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 meeting is also an invitation to anyone who would like to join our team. If you do not knit or crochet, someone will be happy to teach you. Call Alice K. at 387-4755 if you have questions.



Spring Flowers for Easter

We are once again asking members and friends, if they wish, to donate spring flowers for Easter Sunday. You may purchase any flowers you like on your own and bring to church **by Good Friday**. Please fill out a form in the narthex in memory of or in honor of a loved one and return that **by Palm Sunday**.

Messiah Senior Lunch —Tuesday, April 15th

The next senior lunch will be at Applebee's on Tuesday, April 15th at 11:30 am. 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.

Monday, April 28, 2025 from 1:00– 6:00 pm

BLOOD DRIVE

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Monday, April 28th. There are appointment openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

Sign up at: www.redcrossblood.org Code: MESSIAHKATOMN

Maximize your blood donation & help more patients. If you're an eligible type O, B-, or A-donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

MESSIAH KIDS on Sundays & CLUB MESSIAH on Wednesdays

Messiah Kids continues in April during late worship; with children being dismissed to class after Children's Time.

NOTE: Sunday, April 13th Messiah Kids will not meet as it is Palm Sunday and all families are encouraged to join in 8:30 am or 10:30 am worship for this special service.

Attention 4th Grade Families: First Communion is on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Keep the following students in your prayers as they celebrate this special day: Braxton Baukol, Brandt Chatleain, Jeremiah Franke, Kinley Henrickson, Norah Landgraff, Isaac Olson, Jaxson Runkle, and Kelsey Sletten.

The final Messiah Kids for this school year will be on Sunday, April 27th.

Club Messiah continues on Wednesdays. During Lent, through April 9th, family dinner is from 5:30-6:15 pm, family worship will be 6:30-7:00 pm, and student class-time from approximately 6:50-7:30 pm. Parents can participate in the MSM & Adult Group Study led by Pastor LaDonna that continues in the Gathering Place from 7:00-7:30 pm.

NOTE: Wednesday, April 16th there are no Wednesday evening activities as it is Holy Week. Join the congregation for Maundy Thursday worship on April 17th and Good Friday worship on April 18th—both at 6:30 pm.

The final Club Messiah evening will be on Wednesday, April 23rd. Family dinner at 5:30 pm, family worship at 6:00 pm, student class time from 6:30-7:00 pm.

Wednesday Worship *It's for everyone*



Middle School Ministries

During Lent through April 9th, dinner will be from 5:30-6:15 pm. Worship will be in the Gathering Place from 6:30-7:00 pm. Other members of the congregation will join the MSM students for a Group Study on the topic of "Living Our Faith in Daily Life" led by Pastor LaDonna.

NOTE: Wednesday, April 16th there are no Wednesday evening activities as it is Holy Week. Join the congregation for Maundy Thursday worship on April 17th and Good Friday worship on April 18th—both at 6:30 pm.

The final MSM evening for this school year will be on **Wednesday, April 23rd**.

Important Dates & Times for 8th Grade Affirmation Families:

Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 am—12:00 pm making stoles in Gathering Place

Wednesday, April 9th—Be sure you've brought your First Communion cup back to church by this date

Wednesday, April 30th—6:00 pm Affirmation Dinner & Rehearsal and group photo taken

Sunday, May 4th at 10:30 am worship will be Affirmation of Baptism



Cultivate Kindness



During this Lenten season, your Social Outreach Ministry Team will provide weekly prompts for each of us to practice and acknowledge the kindness we give to one another.

Small actions can translate into more kindness than we even intend. Being kind stretches us. It takes thought, effort and sometimes sacrifice. It seeks what's best for the other person, not ourselves. And it is always worth it, because kindness ignites kindness, and the warmth spreads.



Look for the butterflies in the Narthex to anonymously acknowledge the kindness you share and receive!



Can't think of ideas?

- Read an extra story to your kid(s) at bedtime.
- Call an old friend and catch up.
- Post a positive quote on social media.



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.

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

Steven's Group (Steven Jones): Sunday, April 6th & 27th 9:30 am at church

Joanna's Group (Joanna Petersen): Tuesday, April 1st, 15th, & 29th 1:15 pm at Kimberly's home

Kim's Group (Kim Henrickson): Tuesday, April 8 & 22nd 6:30 pm at Kim's home

Janet's Group (Janet Jones): Monday, April 7th & 28th 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. How have we inadvertently put principles before people?
2. Think of a time you got to know someone beyond the label you had put on them. What did you discover?
3. What challenges and barriers do you think other religions face to building the bigger table?

Session	Name	Chapters	Pages (# pages)	Date to Meet
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

Summer Youth Activities



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.



Vacation Bible School at CTK

June 23-26, 2025
8:00AM-12:30PM
\$25 Per Kid

SIGN UP!



S H E T E K
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

COUNCIL UPDATES

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

As we start a new fiscal year, it is with gratitude that we present Messiah's first 2 months. Our tithes and offerings equal \$66,764 compared to \$56,961 expenses or a surplus of \$9803. We also have an additional \$13,362 prepaid for 2025 that we will allocate 1/12 each month to our income. This has already been done for January and February. Lastly, we have had a generous donation that was discussed at the annual meeting and will help in several of our ministries including endowment. Praise to God! Should you have any questions or require further details regarding this financial update, please do not hesitate to reach out to our finance committee. Thank you for your continued faith and support.

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

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

Church Council met on March 9th and the following was discussed:

Affirmation of faith will be May 4 at the 10:30 am service

Second Quarter local benevolences will go to the Red Cross, Green Lake Bible Camp, and the Backpack program.

Messiah will put a small add in the MSU Reporter for the 2025-2026 school year.

Look for information in the future about a capital campaign for church upgrades/maintenance.

Amy is sending a test email to council members with a possible new format for our Weekly updates from Messiah.

Messiah will begin looking into transitioning to magnetic name tags in the future.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 13th 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.



Messiah Directory

We are continuing to gather information for an updated directory. You can 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 will be able to upload or email a photo or have someone at Messiah take your photo. Questions, comments, suggestions, contact Kim Henrickson at kimba55h@gmail.com.



Save the Date—May 2, 2025

On the evening of May 2nd, our own Noah Wilson will be offering his senior piano recital at Mankato State University. Let's show our support for Noah as he completes his undergraduate degree.

April 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!

4/6	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Steve Jones Reader: Victoria Hanson Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Eva Borneke Deb & Frank Steichen
4/13	PALM SUNDAY Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Steve Jones Reader: Janet Jones Comm: Elaine Fossen & Deb Leiferman	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Lynn Klaber Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
4/20	EASTER SUNDAY Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Rande Bowman Reader: Amy Soost Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer	Dayle Moore & TBD TBD Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes
4/27	Ushers: Jeremy Soost & Rande Bowman Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Janet & Steve Jones	Steve Carlberg & Tim Hatlestad Shirley Rosenau Jodi & Mark Himmer

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.

Paving the Way! Making a Difference Together!

An important asset to fulfilling our mission to share the love of Jesus is our building and property. There are five major delayed-maintenance projects that need to be completed to make our property welcoming and comfortable. We also seek your input regarding other projects that should be considered at this time to continue our mission.

Main Needs to Address: Parking Lot (repair, seal, remark lines), HVAC (Replace 2 sanctuary air conditioners/furnaces - over 20 years old), architectural evaluation and repair of leaking stained-glass windows, architectural evaluation and repair of sliding doors (sag) between sanctuary and narthex, and replace current non-working water fountain with a new refillable water fountain. The estimated cost is between \$80,000-100,000.



How willing are you to support this effort, above and beyond your regular giving?
Are there other capital projects that should be considered? Help us by coming together as a community, united in our mission and love, to ensure that our place of worship remains a beacon of hope and a welcoming home for all. Your support, feedback, and generosity are essential in paving the way for our future.

A response card to provide feedback will be coming soon.

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Kimberly's 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Scout Group	2 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30-7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7-7:30 pm MSM/Adult Study 7-7:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	3 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	4	5 12-4:00 pm Private Event
6 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Steve's Book Group @ Messiah 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & Messiah Kids	7 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Janet's Book Group @ Messiah 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	8 9:30 Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Kim's	9 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30-7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7-7:30 pm MSM/Adult Study 7-7:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	10 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 12-2:00 pm Private Event	11	12 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting 10:00 am-12:00 pm Affirmation Stoles 4-8:00 pm Private Event
13 <i>PALM SUNDAY & First Communion</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (NO Messiah Kids) 11:30 am Council Meeting 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	14	15	16	17 <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	18 <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	19
H O L Y W E E K						
	9:00 am SAIL Group	11:30 Monthly Lunchers 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Kimberly's 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	9:00 am SEE Bible Study No Evening Activities	7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm Worship	6:30 pm Worship	
20 <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship (NO Messiah Kids)	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	22 9:30 Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Kim's	23 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner 6-6:30 pm Worship 6:30-7:00 pm Club Messiah 6:30-7:30 pm MSM	24 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	25	26
27 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Steve's Book Group @ Messiah 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & Messiah Kids	28 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:30 am Worship Team Meeting 1:00 pm Janet's Book Group @ Messiah 1-6:00 pm Blood Drive	29 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Kimberly's 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	30 6:00 pm Affirmation Rehearsal and Dinner No Other Evening Activities			



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Amy Malvin, Office Manager: *Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com*

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”



Thoughts & Prayers: Brooke, Cheryl, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Brian, Bob, Lisa, Dave, Stanley, Swede, Bernie

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

Prayers of Sympathy to Bev & Jeff Stock and family on the death of Bev’s mother, Jeanette Bergstad.

Palm Sunday—Holy Week—Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am (First Communion at 10:30 am)

Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 18th at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast will be served from 9:15—10:15 am. There will be a free will offering available.