



August 2022

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

During worship on the last Sunday in June, I asked you to share some of the injustices in the world that you see around you that grieve you. Since then, I've shared some Facebook posts about some of the specific items that were named, but I also wanted to share them in a central location and reflect with you on their meaning for us as a community of faith.

I took all the items that you named, and categorized them into 13 different categories. Those AREAS of injustice that we named as a faith community included: racism, war (especially the war in Ukraine), gun violence, mental health and disability inequality/disparity, women's rights, children's vulnerabilities, the poor, GLBTQIA+ persons, creation care, systems of inequality (veteran care, education, health care, elder care), and voter restrictions. In addition, several named personal experiences of injustice and difficulty, and many named the general issue of anger and hatred that seems to permeate our relationships in this moment.

I share all these items with you because I think they point to something that is too easily overlooked these days. Although we may have disagreements over how best to resolve many of these injustices, we are still - diverse and complicated as we are - able to identify these issues as items which need attention and change. These days, when it seems like we spend so much time on disagreeing with one another, it's important to realize there may very well be many things upon which we actually agree. Of course, if we want to find areas of agreement we also need to make the effort and take the time to listen to each other and our stories. I'm guessing that for many of us though, it's simply easier to avoid the topic(s) than to listen and talk.

Indeed, maybe we have forgotten how to listen and talk in a world that seems to prioritize and reward argument and criticism and name-calling. So what can we as the church do about it?

Perhaps we can take a cue from Jesus. When he was confronted by those who wanted to be angry or disagreeable, he didn't argue with them or point out where they were wrong. Instead, he responded with a story, or asked a question. (Think about his parables, or his questions like "who do you say that I am?" or "who is your neighbor?") When we read scripture today, it can sometimes be frustrating because Jesus gave very few black and white answers; but maybe he instead offered a blue print for how we might converse together to name wrongs, find agreement, and develop ways to act.

The next time a "sticky" topic comes up - what would happen if you didn't avoid it? What might happen if you asked the person more questions about why they believe as they do, or what they might like to see happen to resolve the issue? What if you said "help me understand"? What would happen if you asked if they would be willing to listen to your own story or experience re: the topic? What would they say if you asked them to help you find something you can both agree on? What's the risk for you to try it? What's the risk for you to not?

As you can tell, I don't have answers. But I do know that ALL of us care about these issues, and the fact that we care seems to me to be the place to start. And if you decide it just might be worth the risk, I've got one more thing to offer...before I head into a difficult conversation or into unknown territory, I often pray for the Holy Spirit to give me the words the person is meant to hear, and to keep my mouth closed for the words that shouldn't be said. The Holy Spirit is so much better at these conversations than me!

2020 Roadmap Meeting—Goals Update

Do you remember reading about the annual planning that church leaders were doing during June and July? Here's the finalized actions.

We will welcome one another and build our relationships.

1. Beginning in July, 2022 on the 3rd Sunday of every month name tags will be used at worship services. In addition to writing one's name on the tag, there will be a "get to know you" question that worshippers will be encouraged to answer. There will be time during (Sharing the Peace) and after the worship service to visit with one another and get to know each other and learn names.
2. At each Messiah Worship United service coffee and treats will be offered for fellowship following the worship services.
(Lead persons: Lynell Senden and Sandy Dahms)

We will encourage members in their commitment to the community of Messiah & to the community around them.

1. "HopeComing" Sunday will happen on Sunday, September 11 and will include:
 - a. booths/tables with a variety of opportunities for people to learn about and sign up for areas of interest. Team leaders/table leaders will follow up with the names gathered that day for follow-up.
(Lead Persons: Jan Waller and Barb Meier)
 - b. "Opportunities for the Heart" will be a form developed for people to complete as another way to indicate their interests and areas where there are willing to assist with the life of the community for the benefit of all. Forms will also be available through other means (FB, newsletter, etc.)
(Lead persons: Lynn Klaber, Heather VonBank, Jan Waller and Amy Malvin)
 - c. Service project will be offered for people to participate in on that Sunday as part of "God's Work Our Hands" Day
(Lead Person: Pastor Trish)

We will increase our connections with those who join us for on-line worship and faith community.

1. We will offer opportunities for on-line members/participants to make informed choices about their involvement with Messiah. This includes providing information to them on how other members of the community are involved at Messiah.
 - a. Facebook will be used as a primary platform.
(Lead Persons: Kim Hendrickson, Amy Malvin)

We will provide opportunities over the next year for people to discover hope in their lives, particularly in their lives of faith.

1. Beginning in Fall 2022, small group opportunities will be organized. People will be offered opportunity to sign up for a group at church, a group that is offered in someone's home or other community space, or an online group. Groups will be held for 6-8 weeks at a mutually convenient time, with facilitators and hosts needed for each group. Materials (scripture and discussion questions will be provided for each group.)
2. Following completion of the group experience, a sermon series will be held on "Hope" and will include conversational sermons with some of the group participants to share learning and experiences.
3. Resource ideas that come out of the groups (i.e. a poem that is shared, a story, a support group) will be shared on a broader scale with the congregation at large.
(Lead Persons: Pastor Trish, Jerry Crest, Renee Guyer, Sonja Parr-Baker)

HopeComing Sunday—September 11, 2022

As part of our "HopeComing Sunday" celebration on Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will be doing an all-congregation service project for "God's Work Our Hands" – an ELCA day of service also being celebrated on this day. Together, we will assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Between now and then, we will collect donations for the kits. Please help by bringing in any of the following items:

- Light-weight bath towels – dark colors recommended. Size of the bath towel can vary, but stay away from big and fluffy – light and medium weight towels take up less space and dry more quickly.
- Bath-size bars of soap (individually wrapped)
- Toothbrushes
- Study combs
- Metal nail clippers

Look for the big white box where you can place your donations.

Cleaning Day—Wednesday, August 24th 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Many hands make light work!! **Looking for help** to do some cleaning at church. You don't need to bring any supplies – all is provided. Whatever you are able to do, we have something you can help with.

North Mankato Police Department Community Event

We don't have more details at this time, but in August, Messiah will be working with the North Mankato Police Department in collaboration for a community event. Watch for more details as they become available.

Sweet Adelines Thank You

Thanks so much for having us in to sing for you on Sunday, July 10th. We really enjoyed it and hope you did too! God Bless, Molly Reinemann and Sweet Adelines Chorus

Scholarship Thank You

Thank you so much for the scholarship! I'll be sad to leave the Sunday School program, but it's taught me a lot that I will take with me for the rest of my life. Thanks again.—Kylee Sanow

New Dishwasher

Through generous donations we were able to purchase a new dishwasher for the kitchen. Our congregation is so thoughtful and for those who use the kitchen, especially, this gift is very much appreciated.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church—Fall Kick-Off Celebration

A Special invitation from Pastor Janet inviting you to join her and her congregation on August 24th at 6:00 pm for a free meal at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Madelia and then live music featuring the Messiah Praise Band at Trinity Park. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board.

North Mankato Fun Days—UPDATE

Another Pie & Brat Stand is in the books! The following people put in extra efforts to make sure the stand was a resounding success:

Jan Waller for helping with ordering and all behind the scenes assistance and guidance. For Dayle & Kimberly Moore's guidance and significant help during the days of the stand. Jesse Fuchs was a volunteer extraordinaire. Pastor Trish and area youth for helping with set up. For Lauren & Jim Senden's leadership and work during the days of the stand. Thank you also to EVERYONE else who signed up and worked a shift and/or came by the stand to give support. The set up crew and tear down crew worked efficiently to make sure all things were delivered and returned!

This annual fundraiser provides funds for the Fellowship and Recreation Team. A few recent projects this team has financially supported are the purchase of windbreak tarps for our gazebo, yard treatment for outdoor worship to reduce pests, providing lunches for Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, and donating chips to special needs day on the Friday of Fun Days.

We hope you will consider participating in our Pie & Brat stand next year. It will begin on July 6, 2023. See you next year!

Respectfully Submitted, Lynell Senden



Thank you to the Worship Band who spent hours in the sun sharing their talents with the community. And a huge thank you to Lynell Senden for being our fearless leader!

Youth Activities

Service and Sun

The middle school youth from Messiah and Christ the King had a great experience volunteering for Kiwanis Lights, making school supply backpacks for Lutheran World Relief, as well as helping with Fun Days set up and raking some yards in the community. They also took fun trips to the Gaylord Water Park, Air Insanity in Rochester, the SPAM Museum in Austin, and Valleyfair.



High School Youth Trip



The high school youth trip had a special blessing and send-off on Sunday, July 24th as they prepared to go to Camp Amnicon in WI. They had a canoe & camping adventure on the Flambeau River Ramble. The following youth went with Kara Pipes as chaperone: Autumn & Ashley Pipes, Jillian & Steven Olsen, AJ Tobin, Emma Tokheim, Katelyn Soost, and Sam Jensen.



Sunday School and MSM Updates

Watch your mail for Sunday School and Middle School Ministries Fall Registration forms. Forms will also be available online and in the narthex. Join us for HomeComing Sunday on September 11th to learn more about activities.

> Sunday School begins September 18th at 9:15 am.

> Middle School Ministries begins on September 7th with orientation for students and families at 6:30 pm. First night of class will be September 14th. The schedule for each week includes 5:30 pm meal, worship at 6:00 pm, and class time beginning at 6:30 pm.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Opportunities

Weekend retreats by teens, for teens ... with Christ!

Open to students grades 9-12. Go to www.southerntec.org for more information and to register or see Pastor Trish.

October 20-23 Bethlehem Lutheran in Mankato

Sunday School Teachers this Fall

Messiah is committed to sharing the love of Jesus with people of all ages. Last year Messiah welcomed 5 children into the Lord's family by baptism, 9 children received their First communion and 3 third graders received their bibles. In December the Sunday School children told the Christmas story "Who's Birthday is it Anyway?" Families also participated in 2 interactive lessons with Pastor Trish. We meet weekly, September through May, for 1 hour. The children learn songs, focus on a new bible verse each week, play with their friends and make crafts.

In order to continue the good works, we are asking the congregation for members to serve as teachers, co-teachers, and volunteers to provide hands-on lessons. Curriculum, supplies and support from Heather and Amy are provided. The last couple years our middle school and high school volunteers have been invaluable and have stepped up to serve as teachers. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to work with our student volunteers and serve as teachers. We understand that your time is valuable—the more volunteers we have, the more flexible we can be with you.

Members of the Sunday School team will visit with the congregation in the weeks to come. Prayerfully consider volunteering your time to help the children of Messiah. Contact the church office with questions.

"There are always some incredible life lessons that we as adults can learn from children to lead a more enriching and fulfilling life."

- unknown -

Prayer Pillows for Sunday School



Our youngest Sunday School children have always been excited to receive a Prayer Pillow at church for many years. Due to COVID, we took a break, and a few years worth of kids haven't been able to receive one. We would like to continue with this faith formation yearly event with the coming school year.

With that, we are looking for some volunteers willing to share their time and sewing talents to help make pillows. If this is something that would interest you, please contact the office.



Prayer Squares for Winter Warm-Up

For several years, area ELCA churches (Bethlehem, Christ the King, Grace, Messiah, Epiphany - Eagle Lake and Zion - Lake Crystal) have collaborated to offer a night where our middle school students come together for learning and worship. We call it "Winter Warm-up" - held on the Wednesday the week before Thanksgiving. This year, worship will be held at Christ the King and Angela Denker will be our featured speaker. Angela is a former sportswriter turned pastor and the author of "Red State Christians", and she will be talking to our students about being people of faith in the world around us. (There may also be an afternoon session for interested grown-ups: stay tuned for more information.) As part of our worship service, we would like to send a "prayer square" home with each student. What's a prayer square? Think prayer shawl but MUCH smaller: most squares are 4 or 5 inches large. Will you help make some squares for our students? They can be knotted, crocheted, or quilted. Patterns for a knitted or crocheted square are available on the bulletin board. You are free to use one of those patterns, but you can also use any pattern you might choose or make up! Knitters, crocheters, quilters - hope you can help us! We will have approximately 30 Messiah students in Middle School Ministry this year, but since we often invite other area churches to join us, the more squares we can make the better! See Pastor Trish with any questions.

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, August 25, 2022 - 12:30-5:30 pm at Messiah

Sign up by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter MESSIAHKATOMN as the location to schedule your appointment.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

July Meeting Highlights

- The council approved the June financials—our total income was \$32,478 and expenses were \$27,837 resulting in income over expenses of \$4,641. Year-to-date expenses are over income by \$11,391. The Messiah Council encourages members to note the current financial picture for the church, with TYD expenses outpacing income. We have had some increased expenses that are part of “returning to normal” and everyone is aware of inflationary issues. Members of the council want to thank you for your ongoing giving to this ministry, and to encourage your ongoing or additional gifts.
- Fellowship and Rec Committee—Fun Days Pie and Brat stand had a strong turnout. Great leadership by Lauren Senden and lots of volunteers. Thank you everyone.
- There will be a special offering on Sunday, September 18th for scholarships. This will be a “HopeSending Sunday”. The council voted to split the offering between scholarships for Messiah Youth and scholarships for the Page Education Foundation for students of color.
- Road Map meetings led to much discussion. Look for more conversation from council members throughout August, during worship.
- Next council meeting will be Tuesday, September 6th at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Trish on Vacation August 13-21

Pastor Trish will be on vacation August 13-21. On August 14th & 21st, our own member, Sonja Parr-Baker, will lead the congregation in worship. For any emergencies during that time contact the office.

August and September Worship Participants

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!

| | 8:30 AM | 10:00 AM |
|------|--|--|
| 8/7 | Usher: Rande Bowman & Steve Lenz Reader: Steve Lenz | Chuck Rafferty & Frank Steichen Samantha Erickson |
| 8/14 | Usher: Rande Bowman Reader: Greg Suskovic | Chuck Rafferty & Frank Steichen Lisa Benson |
| 8/21 | Usher: Ron Leiferman & Greg Guyer Reader: Amy Soost | Chuck Rafferty & Steve Carlberg Eva Borneke |
| 8/28 | Usher: Ron Leiferman & Greg Guyer Reader: Diane Halvorson | Steve Carlberg & Peter Skadah Shirley Rosenau |
| 9/4 | Messiah Worships United at 10 am | Jim Jilek & Mike Erickson Marlene Buker |
| 9/11 | Messiah Worships United at 10 am | Jim Jilek & Mike Erickson Sandy Hatlestad |
| | 8:30 AM | 10:30 AM |
| 9/18 | Usher: Steve Lenz & Scott Madigan Reader: Chuck Dulas | Bill Halstead & Mark Gulden Lisa Benson |
| 9/25 | Usher: Steve Lenz & Scott Madigan Reader: Georgia Holmes | Bill Halstead & Mark Gulden Shawna Merrill |

Ways to Give Online

How to give online:

1. Scan this QR code:



2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click on “OFFERING” on the homepage, 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 account

Know your gift is appreciated and helps support the ministry of Messiah.

August 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 9:00 am SAIL Group | 2 10:30 am Staff Meeting | 3 9:00 am SEE Bible Study | 4 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows | 5 Office Closed @ Noon | 6 |
| 7 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) | 8 9:00 am SAIL Group | 9 10:30 am Staff Meeting | 10 9:00 am SEE Bible Study | 11 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners | 12 Office Closed @ Noon | 13 |
| 14 Communion Pulpit Supply: Sonja Parr-Baker 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) | 15 9:00 am SAIL Group | 16 10:30 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Life Long Learners | 17 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2-8:30 pm Directory Photo Sessions | 18 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 2-8:30 pm Directory Photo Sessions | 19 Office Closed @ Noon 2-8:30 pm Directory Photo Sessions | 20 10:30 am—5 pm Directory Photo Sessions |
| P a s t o r T r i s h o n v a c a t i o n A u g u s t 1 3 - 2 1 . | | | | | | |
| 21 Communion Pulpit Supply: Sonja Parr-Baker 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) | 22 9:00 am SAIL Group | 23 10:30 am Staff Meeting | 24 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship | 25 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 12:30 pm Red Cross Blood Drive | 26 Office Closed @ Noon | 27 |
| 28 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) 12-3 pm Private Event | 29 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Pathstone | 30 10:30 am Staff Meeting | 31 9:00 am SEE Bible Study | You are welcome to join a bible study anytime! | | |



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In our thoughts and prayers: Ben K, Craig V, Dave C, Earl W, Judy F, Milt H, Sharen O, Dan and family Millie, Arthur, Tom, Bob G, Lois S, Sally M, Axel, Calvin

Those who serve our country: Dan P, Derek M, Carley, Alex

Prayers of Sympathy for Joan Klanderud on the death of her brother, Gary Sander of Nebraska.

Prayers of Sympathy for Mary and Ken Huntley on the death of their great-nephew.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family and friends of Gary Kretch whose funeral was Wednesday, July 27th.

Prayers of Sympathy for Dayle and Kimberly Moore on the death of Dayle’s grandfather, Alvin Obermoller.

God’s Blessings to Sonja and Briana Parr-Baker on their wedding, July 23rd.



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 am—Indoor Worship

10:00 am—Outdoor Worship

Looking ahead ...

The summer worship schedule will continue through the month of August.

September 4th— Blessings Sunday (outdoor)
 Messiah Worships United @ 10:00 am

September 11th—HopeComing Sunday (indoor)
 Messiah Worships United @ 10:00 am

Beginning September 18th, worship will return to both worships being indoors at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. And Sunday School is at 9:15 am.