

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGULAR VOTERS MEETING
May 18, 2025**

Call to Order

Devotion

Roll Call of Membership

Reception of New Voting Members

Approve Minutes – November 17, 2024 Regular Voters' Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Report

Council Reports

Old Business - School Readiness Update
 Call Process Update
 Office Redesign Update
 Sanctuary Carpet Update

New Business – Council and Elders Elections

Questions and Final Comments

Closing Prayer

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Regular Voters Meeting
November 17, 2024**

Call to Order

- Todd Grube called the in-person meeting to order at 11:58 AM.

Devotion

- Pastor Kurt led the members in prayer to start the meeting.

Roll Call to Membership

- Messiah has 286 voting members of which 66 were present. Troy declared we have a quorum.

Reception of New Voting Members

- The following members were received as voting members:
 - Mary Carbone
 - Brandon Wroge
 - Randy Marko
 - Cindy Marko

Approve Voters Meeting Minutes

- The May 2024 Regular Voters Meeting Minutes were adopted as presented

Treasurer's Report

Chad Lemke provided an overview of Messiah's Financial situation.

- Multi year trend in attendance and giving. Attendance is +5% YoY. Year to date giving (income) is 5% ahead of budget and 3% ahead of 2023.
- Mortgage is currently at less than \$1.8M; at current pace we anticipate payoff in 7 years.
- Messiah's overall financial health is good with \$794k in prior surplus invested and \$296k in restricted funds.
- Intention to use \$95k (HVAC, Sanctuary lights and carpet) for special projects in 2025.

Pastor's Report

- Summer in the Psalms went well
- Pastor addressed Madi leaving
- Due to several recent funerals, a funeral planning seminar to be held in December
- Advent 2024 theme - Look Up (will again include 11am service with soup lunch)

Council Reports

- Individual Committee reports were included in the Voters packet.
- Todd thanked council members and talked about the open positions

Unfinished Business

School Readiness

Kevin Peterson, School Steering Committee Chairman, advised members that the committee had recently met with a representative from the LCMS Genesis Project. They anticipate starting a school readiness study at Messiah in January 2025.

Planning Session Results

Pastor Klaus provided a presentation on the planning session results and the future of Messiah. He outlined our overall strategy, including the one, three and five year goals.

- Messiah as a Transformation Hub:
 - Connection HUBs - Where members can gather around God's word to grow as disciples of Christ and in relationship with one another.

- Community Partnership HUBs - Opportunities to strengthen ties across our community by working with local schools, organizations and more.
- Home HUBs - As members grow in faith through being in God's word in Connection Hubs, Messiah will provide daily opportunity for people to grow in faith through devotional, Bible reading and more.
- Goals
 - 1 year: gather stories for pre-existing HUBs to share; develop staff strategy; define leaders; strengthen current Community partnerships and look for new ones
 - 3 year: strong connect groups going out into the community; increased Church and Connection HUB attendance; right sized staffing to meet needs
 - 5 year: 100 Home HUBs; 30 Connection HUBs; 25 Community HUBs
- Questions/Answers:
 - Q: Do we need to think about additional help/staff (and timing)
 - A: All of this is under consideration and plans are in motion; Council is included in these discussions
 - Q: Regarding a Bible study, could we do a "Bible in 1-year" study?
 - A: Possible next year doing a 1 year lectionary plan

New Business

Server

Don Meeks addressed the status of our current server which is over 7 years old and is out of warranty at the end of 2024. Cost analysis was conducted and it was determined that it would be more cost effective for Messiah to purchase a server than going cloud based.

A council motion was presented to buy a new server using 2024 surplus funds at a cost of \$16,500.

Motion carries.

2024 Budget

Tom Solberg presented the proposed 2025 budget.

- Budget includes an anticipated giving (income) growth of 1% and reflects an overall deficit of \$35k.
- Overall budget increases from \$1.79M in 2024 to \$1.82M in 2025.
 - Personnel up \$89K due to salary increases that invest in our staff and the planned addition of called ministry staff
 - Property up \$95K due to planned LED conversion in the basement, replacement of a HVAC unit, and carpet and light replacement in the Sanctuary.

A council motion was voted on and passed adopting the proposed 2025 budget. **Motion carries.**

Question/Answers:

- Q: How will we decide on who, or how many new staff to hire/call?
 - A: Personnel and Council to discuss and develop a plan which will be presented to the congregation.
- Q: Would Messiah do a Vicar program in the future?
 - A: We would when the timing is right. This position needs to be at a time when we have time to train.

Election of Elders

- Randy Marko was voted in as an Elder to complete the second year of a two year term that Council had appointed him to pending a voter election. **Motion carries.**

Closing Prayer

Pastor Kurt closed the meeting in prayer.

Todd thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM

Barb Larson
Council Secretary
Messiah Lutheran Church



Treasurer's Report 2024 Year End Comparison

Offerings:

• <u>General Fund:</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	\$1,403,840	\$1,409,041
▪	1.4% higher than budgeted and 0.4% lower than last year.	
• <u>Restricted Fund Giving:</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Balance</u>
○ Messiah's Food Shelf/Garden:	\$104,455	\$85,957
○ Mission Focus:	\$44,340	\$13,691
○ Debt/Capital Fund:	\$42,029	\$223,389
○ Other	<u>\$17,403</u>	<u>\$36,489</u>
○ Total	\$208,227	\$359,526

Operations:

• <u>Expenses:</u>	<u>\$16k</u>	<u>Under budget</u>
○ Personnel:	\$41k	Under (open position)
○ Mission Focus:	\$13k	Under (weaker giving)
○ Youth Ministry:	\$11k	Under (travel)
○ Fellowship:	\$10k	Under (fewer events)
○ Executive Committee:	\$12k	Over (speaker consultant)
○ Property/Projects:	\$25k	Over (HVAC server replacement)
○ Food Shelf:	\$32k	Over (strong usage)
• <u>Restricted Funds Released:</u>	<u>\$214k</u>	<u>Funds Utilized</u>
○ Food Shelf/Garden:	\$140k	
○ Mission Focus:	\$52k	(Video, Amnion, Omega, YFC, Sleep, POBLO)

Net Financial Results:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
• <u>Net Surplus (Deficit):</u>	\$108,248	\$143,665
▪	\$75k favorable Investment Gains	
▪	\$41k favorable Personnel Expenses	

**Treasurer's Report
March 2025**

Offerings:

• <u>General Fund:</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	\$317,367	\$317,000
▪ Flat to YTD budget and 12% lower than YTD 2024 giving		
• <u>Restricted Fund Giving:</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>
○ Food Shelf/Garden:	\$94,337	\$156,293
○ Debt/Capital Fund:	\$6,730	\$232,168
○ Mission Focus Partners:	\$11,992	\$4,377
○ Other	\$2,839	\$35,071
○ Total	\$115,898	\$427,909

Operations:

• <u>YTD Expenses:</u>	<u>\$5k</u>	<u>Under budget</u>
○ Mission Focus:	\$8k	Under (weaker giving)
○ Food Shelf/Garden:	\$2k	Under
○ Property/Projects:	\$6k	Over (repair boiler architect fees)
• <u>YTD Restricted Funds Released:</u>	<u>\$52k</u>	<u>Funds Utilized</u>
○ Food Shelf/Garden:	\$24k	
○ Mission Focus:	\$24k	(Project Video & Amnion)

Net Financial Results:

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
• <u>Net Surplus (Deficit):</u>	(\$15,571)	(\$14,090)
▪ Breakeven Giving and Spending		
▪ \$14k Investment Losses due to market volatility		

Mortgage Balance:

- *\$1,733,005 remaining balance owed*
 - *Expected pay off date is August 2033 (8 years 5 months).*

Submitted by: Tom Solberg, Finance Director



Pastor's Report – Spring Voters 2025

PAST:

- 1.) **Year Long Series** - Our year long focus was on Koinonia, the Greek word for Christian fellowship and community. We finished Koinonia in worship in September and in October we did Koinonia in Relationships and in November we did two weeks on Koinonia in Service. In January we talked about Koinonia in healing. The series ended with Heidi Goehmann speaking during Bible study on Sunday, February 23.
- 2.) **Food Shelf 20th Anniversary** – We celebrated the food shelf 20th anniversary in November while we talked about “Koinonia in Service.” The celebration and the November voters meeting inspired a member to give a \$100,000 matching grant that we ran in February and March. By God's grace we raised the funds and \$200,000 was added to the food shelf dedicated fund.
- 3.) **Christmas** - Christmas went very well. We had 450 at the 3 pm, 320 at the 5 pm and 166 at the 7 pm. We had 200 more than we had last year. Because of the disparity between the first two services and the 7 pm we are probably going to move the services back to 1,3, and 5 pm next year
- 4.) **Lent and Holy Week** - Attendance was strong for both Lent and Holy Week. The midweek theme was well received. Holy week was very well attended. Maundy Thursday was the only service that was less than last year. Good Friday was up by about 55 and we had 135 more this Easter than last year. People especially responded to the Good Friday service. I believe that the Facebook ads are helping get our name out to the community more.
- 5.) **New Members** – Our January/February new member class included 22 new members. There are currently 10 people signed up for the April 30th class.

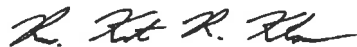
Current and Future:

- 1.) **Messiah's 40th Anniversary** – The congregation's 40th Anniversary is this year. We will be having a big celebration on September 28th. There is a committee currently planning the event. Because the celebration will be in September the

40th celebration will take the place of Rally day. Rally day Sunday will just be a normal Sunday or we may have a picnic only.

- 2.) **Outdoor Worship** - Outdoor worship services will resume on the last Sunday of the month starting on Memorial Day weekend.
- 3.) **Next Year's Theme** - This Summer we will be planning a year long focus on the Old Testament and how it points to Christ. The goal will be to provide individual and small group materials as well as Sunday opportunities.

Christ's servant and yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. R. R. R." or similar, written in a cursive style.

Spiritual Life Director Report

May 18, 2025 - Voters Meeting

Since the last voters meeting, we have welcomed thirty-six new members and have released three members. In addition, we have changed the status, from active to inactive, of all the members who we have not been able to reach. This was done after multiple attempts to reach them through various methods and sending three letters, indicating that we had been trying to reach them. After doing this, we created a thirteenth elder group and re-did all the elder groups to give each elder between 33 and 34 families in their group. This was all done in an attempt to lessen the load on each elder and make it easier for them to reach out to everyone in his group. We welcomed Scott Thompson as the thirteenth elder after being appointed by the church council. He will be voted on today to make it official.

Brad Salmi and Don Meeks completed a safety plan for Messiah. It includes information on how to handle medical emergencies through facilities emergencies, such as a fire. A copy is on the counter by the sound board and in the office.

Steve Buckner has decided to not seek another term as elder and we thank him for all of his work and dedication.

2025 Music/Worship Arts Report

December

- Christmas season included a children's service led and produced by Kristin Scott and went well. Christmas services also went well particularly Christmas Eve as it included youth solos and unique music selections.
- Another live music event on December 17th went very well with young adult praise group and great volunteer commitment.
- Advent By Candlelight Service went well also in early December.

January

- Koinonia in Healing theme continued.
- Added some new praise team volunteers.
- January 26th weekend services included creative reading elements and two sermons.

February

- *Church Hurt* series started and weekend services went well throughout the month.
- Presentation Software Proclaim continues to enhance worship w/ introduction of themed backgrounds.
- Comments on online worship being of better quality the past months.

March

- Ash Wednesday Services included a large praise team w/ special instruments and handbells.
- Lenten midweek and weekend services went well. Continuing to include adults/youth in Praise teams and worship volunteering.
- Faith statements transcriptions were included on screens for first time to help congregation hear and follow our confirmation students.
- New Keyboard was purchased and sounds great.

April

- Lenten worship continues into Holy week
- Sunday school kids sing on Palm Sunday and went well.
- Simon Stout (Jews for Jesus) presentation in worship went well.

Holy Week

- Maunday Thursday Pastor Bob preached, services went well.
- Good Friday included a variety of worship elements, instruments, skit, and congregational participation.
- Easter Sunrise and weekend services were well attended and went well. Included some new music, youth teams, and special instruments. Adult choir on Easter Sunday sang wonderfully! A special thank you to Jamye Casperson and Jodi Klaus for leading the choir.
- Online Holy Week services received positive comments and sounded great.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers that contributed to Holy Week services as well!

Overall

November through April included great special services and events. Volunteer engagement and congregational engagement in worship were good throughout these last 5 months. Praise team volunteers remain steady and slowly adding more. We will continue to spread the word about volunteering opportunities for worship and look forward to the summer ahead.

**Administrator's Report
Voter's Meeting – May 18, 2025**

Attendance – Overall, in 2024, 25,450 people attended services at Messiah; a weekly average of 489 as compared to weekly averages of 460 in 2023 and 407 in 2022.

Weekly attendance thus far this year (January-March) averaged 506. This average includes Lenten services in March.

Facebook – On Facebook, in 2024, we had 68,400 views and 2,800 content interactions (such as likes, reactions, comments, shares, etc.).

You Tube – On You Tube in 2024 we had 26 new subscribers and a total of 5,125 views (roughly 100 views per week on average). We also had 75 shares, 63 uploads, 60 likes and 6 comments.

Boxcast (livestream) – On Boxcast, in 2024, we had 6,757 views. The top 3 locations were Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri.

Employee Retention Credit – In early 2024 we engaged the services of a reputable accounting firm that specialized in Employee Retention Credit (ERC) at a cost of \$2,000. At that time, due to substantial fraud in the program, the IRS had frozen all claims for the program. In late December the IRS released their hold on the program and we received a check from them in the amount of \$25,765.

Building Usage – Requests for building usage has increased over the years. In addition to our weekly use, we currently 2 Christian homeschool cooperatives that use our building. We continue to open the building to community service events such as blood drives, elections, school respect retreats, River Valley Project Explore and Al-ANON.

Congregational Life Director's Report-May 2025

Thank You

Before anything else, we want to thank the many Messiah volunteers who have served in the Congregational Life area this year! From helping with Lenten Dinners, to Blood Drives, to leading an event. Thank you for your time, your heart of service to God, and your sincere investment in the growth of our congregation!

Lent Meals

We had great turn out this year with our 6 Lenten Meals. We tried two new meal options with a Brat and Beans, and a Soup and Salad. Thank to you all of the volunteers who helped serve, bring in bars, and event attended.

40th Anniversary Celebration

Messiah will celebrate 40 years of ministry in August, 2025. To celebrate, we will be hosting a special dinner and celebration on Sunday, September 28th. Watch for more details to RSVP.

Other Events Happening:

Ladies Book Club meets regularly to read and discuss a book.

Ladies Craft days happen one Sunday a month for fellowship and crafts.

Men's Chili had 25 chilies this year to sample and vote for.

Ladies Bake-off had 18 delicious "chocolate" items to sample and vote on.

Messiah Spring Work day is scheduled for May 3rd.

Prime Timers meet twice for fun thru cards and listened to a Speaker on health.

UPCOMING- Ladies Fall Retreat will happen again at Camp Omega. Save the date is Oct. 3-4th, 2025.

Outreach Director Report

Voter's Meeting – May 18, 2025

Messiah's Community Food Shelf

VISION: Fostering relationships so that we can nurture the whole person.

The needs in the community continue to grow and thankfully, with the churches' support and the support of our Donor Partners, we continue to grow to meet them. Below are the yearly statistics for 2023 and 2024.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	
Households Served:	4,889	3,370	45% increase
Individuals Served:	10,076	7,582	33% increase
Food Distributed in Lbs:	495,033	386,158	28% increase
Avg Lbs. per person:	49	51	4% decrease
Incoming Rescue Lbs.:	211,539 *	148,041	43% increase
Incoming Donations Lbs.:	99,187	102,084	3% decrease

*It is accepted practice that up to 15% of all rescue food can be waste.

- **20th Anniversary Celebration** - The celebration was held on November 17, 2024. Many members of our congregation, volunteers and community partners attended. The Impact video created by Tony Compton, the picture slide show created by Crystal Brutlag and the PowerPoint presentation created by the planning group of Deb Kubisiak, Kim Mueller, Beth McFee and Erin Lemke were well received. The cake and flowers were provided by a Thrivent grant and all other expenses, i.e. paper plates, napkins, etc. were donated. Our November monetary goal was \$20,000 in honor of 20 years of service. The donation total was \$21,413.68
- **Pack the Pews** was held in November. Our goal this year is to collect 2,000 pounds of food in honor of our 20 year anniversary and the donation was 2,743 pounds! We're so thankful for this annual event.
- **Coat Drive** - Our coat drive was a huge success! We collected 119 coats, 17 pairs of snow pants, 2 pairs of children's boots and numerous hats and mittens too.
- **Food Drive Updates** - We had our annual Fall food drive with the Lakeville Lions and the three Lakeville Cub Foods stores on Saturday, November 16th. The donation totaled 1,800 pounds! Legends donated 574 pounds of food and \$1000. Anchor Home School donated 273 pounds and \$1000. Lakeville South Hockey Team 100 pounds and the team volunteered to help sort and shelve the very large Lions and Legends donation. There were many other smaller food drives, but these are our largest. The spring food drive including the Lakeville Lions and 3 Lakeville Cub Foods Stores will be held on Saturday, May 10th.
- **Grant Updates** - We have been granted \$7,518 from a Hunger Solutions grant. This money can be used for needed items to run the food shelf, i.e. food, equipment, gas cards, advertising, technology, and/or hygiene supplies.
- **Storage Room Move** - On Saturday, January 11th we swapped storage spaces with the LWML group. This is an effort to reduce the number of spaces that we occupy in the building. All of our shelf stable foods (canned, etc.) are now in what we call room 5, the area in the back of the gym where the tables and chairs are stored. And the LWML and kitchen items are now in what we call room 3, the room where the audio equipment is stored.
- **\$100,000 Matching Funds Campaign** – An anonymous donor pledged \$100,000 matching funds for the Food Shelf. The theme of Help Solve the Puzzle of Hunger was used for the campaign that ran from February 1 to March 31. A puzzle board was created to track our progress towards the \$100,000 goal. The Lakeville Sun Times ran an article on their website and in print about the campaign and 360 Communities posted the campaign information to their Facebook page and was included in their quarterly Newsletter. We received a large donation of \$25,000 from the Lakeville Lions and \$1,000 from the Lakeville Rotary Club. We are so thankful to the congregation, our partners, the community and the anonymous donor!! Our total amount raised was \$111,322.34! So, with the matching funds of \$100,000 that's a grand total of \$211,322.41.
- **Puzzle Competition Event** - Help Solve the Puzzle of Hunger, was held on Sunday, March 30th, 2pm - 4pm. All of the expenses-puzzles, prizes and food were donated. There were 21 Puzzle Teams at the event. Seven of the teams were not members of the congregation. The event raised over \$3,500 in cash and Venmo. There was an additional amount that was sent via our QR code. Food was also donated to the Food Shelf.
- **Volunteer updates**...Currently we have 163 volunteers. NEW RECORD! We are always looking for new volunteers. Currently, our most needed volunteers are Computer Intake Specialists and Spanish speaking volunteers.
- **Star Tribune** - the Star Tribune ran an article about the increasing cost of groceries and the effects that it's having on Minnesota families. They interviewed Erin Lemke and one of our volunteers, as well as a Lakeville Lion member.

- **Easter Gift Card Promotion** with the Lakeville Lions - the Lakeville Lions donated \$5000 to be used for gift cards to be given out in the month of April as an Easter gift. We are distributing 263 \$20 Cub Foods gift cards.
- **Food Shelf Garden** – The planning meeting was held on Wednesday, April 16th to plan the upcoming garden season. There were 10 volunteers, 8 returning and 2 NEW. Susan Staber will be our Garden Lead this season. Denny Skou donated all of the vegetable seeds and some of the volunteers are also donating plants. We plan to plant the garden on Monday, May 19th and/or Wednesday, May 28th- weather pending.

NAPS – Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors:

Volunteers meet at Messiah's Community Food Shelf to distribute a box of food once per month to seniors living in Lakeville who qualify for this service through Second Harvest Heartland.

Red Cross Blood Mobile

There is a Blood Drive a few times a year at Messiah. Here are Blood Drive numbers since last reported:

- The blood drive on November 26, 2024 collected 40 units of blood.
- The blood drive on January 21, 2025 collected 36 units of blood.
- The blood drive on April 15, 2025 collected 42 units of blood.

LWML

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an auxiliary encouraging and equipping women to living out Christian lives in active ministries and to support global missions.

- Messiah's LWML does a variety of service activities within Messiah such as Alter guild, kitchen care, purchasing needed items in the kitchen, and funeral service. They also support missions.
- LWML meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:29 pm at church. All ladies are welcome.
- Lydia Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm. This is for women who would like to be part of LWML but are unable to attend the Thursday night meeting.
- LWML newly elected board members for the next year are: President: Elaine Hartl, Secretary: Connie Gunderson, and Treasurer: Cindy Nybo.
- LWML served soup for the Advent lunches during December..
- Advent by Candlelight was held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 beginning at 3:30. The theme was "The King Shall Come". There were over 160 attendees who donated over \$2,500 for Cradle of Hope as well as baby items.
- The LWML has a new storage area; they are using room 3 rather than room 5.
- LWML served the Ash Wednesday meal. Donations of \$1,082 went to Messiah's VBS and mites.

2025 Mission Focus Ministries

Jan/Feb: Amnion Pregnancy Center

Mar/Apr: Camp Omega

May/Jun: House of Prayer in Ethiopia

July/Aug: Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sept/Oct: POBLO Ministry (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) *

Nov/Dec: Project Video

Updates since the November 2024 report:

POBLO: People of the Book Lutheran Outreach - Sept/Oct

POBLO International Ministries has been in operation over 30 years in the US. The Twin Cities International Friendship Centers is the model POBLO uses to reach out to immigrant and international folks in the community who need help physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We support Ascension Lutheran Church in Burnsville with their International Friendship Center at their church.

- In November 2024 we sent POBLO \$7,823 which includes the \$2,000 from budget.

Project Video – Nov/Dec

There are 2.7 billion unreached people in Asia, more than a third of the world's population (Joshua Project 2017). Project Video strives to develop a team in each people group living in SE Asia to make Christian resources for their own language through media.

- David Jones, the director of PV spoke during services the weekend of Nov. 23/24.
- Messiah highlighted the MP3 players used by PV to proclaim the Gospel to unreached people groups.
- On the weekend of December 7/8, Mike Hagen introduced and showed a video about Project Video.

- \$18,041.32 was donated to Project Video in January which includes the \$2,000 from budget. An additional \$13,062.34 was given directly to Project Video from Messiah members.

Amnion Pregnancy Center – Jan/Feb

The mission statement for Amnion is to encourage women, men, and families to choose life when confronted with unintended pregnancy, to provide hope and healing to those suffering from past abortions, and to encourage adolescents to form healthy relationships by saving sexual intimacy for marriage.

- Jessica Anderson, Event Planner at Amnion, spoke during the services on the January 18/19 weekend.
- During the month of February we had a baby shower to benefit Amnion. We had a play pen set up outside the office to collect baby items.
- A video promoting Amnion was shown the weekend of February 8/9.
- Messiah participated in the Bottles for Life campaign and raised \$4,887.37. Messiah also sent \$9,989.64 in March, which includes the \$2,000 from budget. The total donated to Amnion was \$14,877.01.

Camp Omega – Mar/April

Camp Omega is a Lutheran Christian retreat/conference center and summer camp near Waterville, MN. It is affiliated with the LCMS Church. Open year round, they serve a wide variety for Christian and community groups. The camp receives support from individuals and congregations.

- Russ Schwichtenberg, Gift Development, and Andy Crisp, Program Director, spoke the weekend of March 8/9. They also spoke during the education hour.
- A video was shown the weekend of April 26/27 to promote Camp Omega.

House of Prayer in Ethiopia – May/June

Wukro House of Prayer was a former Mission Focus ministry and will be again in 2025. In this part of Ethiopia Christian Churches can only exist in hiding because of extreme persecution. Messiah has partnered with Mekane Yesus in building the House of Prayer in Wukro.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace – July/Aug

SHP believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. If a child needs a bed, they want to make sure they get one. NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Life Team

Messiah started a Life Team at Messiah through Lutheran's for Life in August 2024. Life Teams are designed to support the Pastor as he engages and informs the congregation about the importance of protecting the sanctity of human life at all ages, from fertilization to forever. The goal of a well-trained Life Team is to educate and equip their congregation about God's love of life. Carrie Strauch is the leader of the Life Team.

- There is an area with LIFE pamphlets and brochures on the slat wall outside the Family Life Center.
- Ten people from Messiah went to the MN March for Life event on January 22, 2025.
- Nine members of the Life Team are fully trained and certified. They were commissioned at Messiah on Feb. 9th.

Seminary Student Support

Messiah is supporting the St. Louis Seminary student, Luke Symmank, with \$2,000 a year for four years. This is the second year. His home congregation is Woodbury Lutheran, Woodbury, MN. Luke preached at Messiah the Dec. 28/29 weekend.

Greeting/Visitors/Assimilation:

- Pizza with the Pastor is a brief, informal get-together for new worship guests. It's a chance to get your questions answered and to discover a little bit about Messiah. They are the second Sunday of the month at 11:45am.
- New Member class is a 4 week class that will take visitors through the teachings and beliefs of Messiah and an overview of Messiah's vision and mission. A new member class started January 15th from 6:15 – 7:30pm in the Fireside Room. There were 22 new members from the new member class. We welcomed them on the March 8/9 weekend during the services. The next new member class starts on April 30, 2025.

Operations Report

April 2025

Boiler Issues – As previously reported, in early January we encountered a couple of boiler issues. On February 11, 2025, Egan Companies replaced the seals and bearings on one of our pumps and replaced the coil for motor starter with one of the other pumps. The total cost of repairs was \$4,150.00.

Sanctuary Carpet and Lights – We received a bid from St Paul Lino for the Sanctuary carpet replacement. Their quote came in at \$71,721 and is all inclusive (includes removal and replacement of all furniture, railings and pews). It includes carpet tiles for most of the Sanctuary and broadloom for the Chancel, steps, music room, bells and praise team areas. The Sacristy will be a luxury vinyl plank due to liquids being poured there. The replacement light bulbs (82) are in the process of being purchased and are estimated to cost \$1,700. The lift for changing lights will cost \$3,050. This takes our total cost to \$76,471. On Wednesday (4/16/25) a group from Messiah helped with the carpet selection for the Sanctuary. Don met with a lighting contractor to work out issues in replacing the Sanctuary lights. Samples are on order. The current plan calls for carpet and light replacement during the month of July.

Downstairs LED Lighting Conversion – This project is complete. For this years' project, 138 fixtures were replaced and 65 fixtures were rewired to accept LED bulbs. Over the last 2 years a total of 238 fixtures were replaced and 136 fixtures were rewired. The estimate obtained 2 years ago for this project was \$62,785. This estimate did not include rewiring all storage rooms and the areas underneath the Sanctuary and over the Family Life Center. In total the estimate included replacing 224 fixtures and rewiring 48 fixtures. We were able to complete the project at a cost of \$15,366, savings in excess of \$47,389. Additionally, the project is expected to pay for itself with energy savings in 2.5 years. The entire building (inside and out) is now LED with the exception of the decorative hanging lights in the upper commons and the Sanctuary lights backlighting the cross.

HVAC – The HVAC unit for the youth room was making a noise and Phil Holmin looked at it. He determined that the motor needed to be replaced at a cost of

approx. \$800. Since this unit was scheduled to be replaced over the next few years and we budgeted to replace one unit this year, a decision was made to go ahead and replace the unit. The replacement was completed during the week of 3/2/25.

Food Shelf Consolidation - An electrician was contracted and installed 3 dedicated lines for the food shelf from an electrical panel in the basement into the old food shelf room inside door 3. A new commercial freezer was purchased using grant funds and was placed in the old food shelf room. Additionally, the food shelf freezers from the scrubber room and the kitchen were moved to the old food shelf room.

Replacement Refrigerator – A replacement refrigerator was purchased for the kitchen to replace the moved to the food shelf storage area.

Zero Turn Tractor Recall - The zero-turn tractor had a recall and was placed out of service until repaired. It was repaired in March and yearly service was completed at the same time.

Q3 Goals –

- Replace the carpet in sanctuary. Estimated cost \$75,000.

Discipleship Director's Report-May 2025

Thank You

Before anything else, we want to thank the many Messiah volunteers who have served in the Discipleship Ministry this year! From Sunday school teachers to confirmation leaders, Jr. and Sr. High leaders, VBS leaders, and small group Bible study leaders, we have over 50 Messiah members that have volunteered as leaders in Discipleship Ministry this year. Thank you for your time, your heart of service to God, and your sincere investment in the spiritual growth of our congregation!

Sunday School

This year there were 50 students in our Sunday school classes. The last regular programming day is May 18. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers as well as Becky Akervik for being our Sunday school leader this year. The offering this year went to 360 Sandwiches and Blankets for kids. These sandwiches and blankets were made on Sunday, May 4th. Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Confirmation and Jr High Ministry

We had about 40 5th-8th graders in confirmation– thank you to all of those leaders for their commitment to ministry to our kids. We are currently looking at a variety of curriculum ideas for next year and a fellowship/event calendar.

Sr. High Ministry

28 youth and adults are preparing for the National Youth Gathering July 18-23rd in New Orleans! The youth are extremely thankful for the generosity of the congregation through their fundraisers. We have had some great numbers on Wednesday nights with about 25 youth attending and around 12 on Sunday mornings.

Adult Bible Studies

Men's Bible study will continue to meet on Saturday and Monday mornings in the Fireside Room. Special thanks to Tony Duclos and Roger Reinhart for leading these studies.

Men's Connect continues to meet to bring guys together to support, pray for, and encourage as they go through a study. This meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday's.

Women's Bible resumed meeting on Wednesday mornings during Lent and after. This is led by Lori Olson and Beth Vetter

6 Small Groups are continuing to meet.

Right Now Media

Messiah has full congregational access to Right Now Media. It's like Netflix – a video database – that is full of Bible studies and Christian topics. If you are a small group leader and you'd like help finding resources or topics, please contact Andy Frerich (andy@messiahonline.com) and he will be happy to help! This is a great resource to use in the Summer to stay in God's Word!

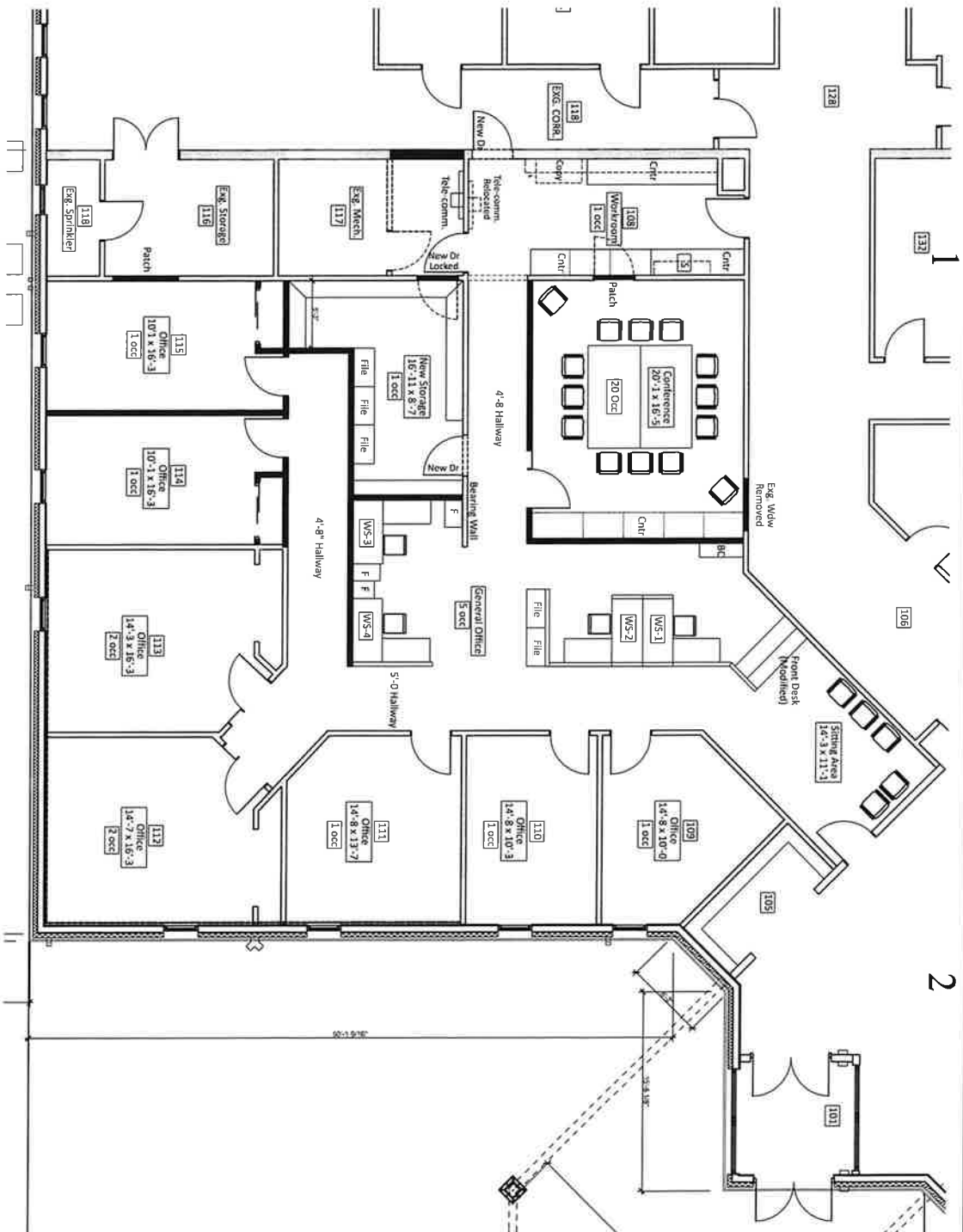
HOPE GROUPS

Grief Share started up again on Tuesday afternoons. This is led by Pastor Wesolik and Faith Wesolik.

DivorceCare is new to Messiah. They meet on Thursday evenings and is led by Jean and Marty Lukaszewski. Another great resource to our community.

Al-ANON's local chapter (Monday), District leaders (quarterly) and their New Beginnings introductory class (Saturday) continue to meet at Messiah.

River Valley Project Explore continues to hold their waffle breakfast, bowling banquet, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at Messiah.



P3

SCHEME 'C' PRELIMINARY FLOOR PLAN-REV.

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

1

2

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Date	Issued
4-10-2024	
4-12-2024	
1-15-2025	
1-17-2025	

SHEET TITLE
PRELIMINARY PLAN

P-3
SHEET 8 OF 13

Council Elections

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Treasurer	Chad Lemke*	2 Years
Secretary	Barb Larson*	2 Years
Discipleship Director	Vacant	2 Years
Congregational Life Director	Vacant	2 Years
Outreach Director	Vacant	2 Years

* - Incumbent

Elder Elections

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	
Brian Grunklee	2 Years	Incumbent
Roger Reinhart	2 Years	Incumbent
Tony Duclos	2 Years	
Jeremy Duensing	2 Years	Incumbent
Mike Groneberg	2 Years	Incumbent
Rick Bussler	2 Years	Incumbent
Scott Thompson	1 Year	