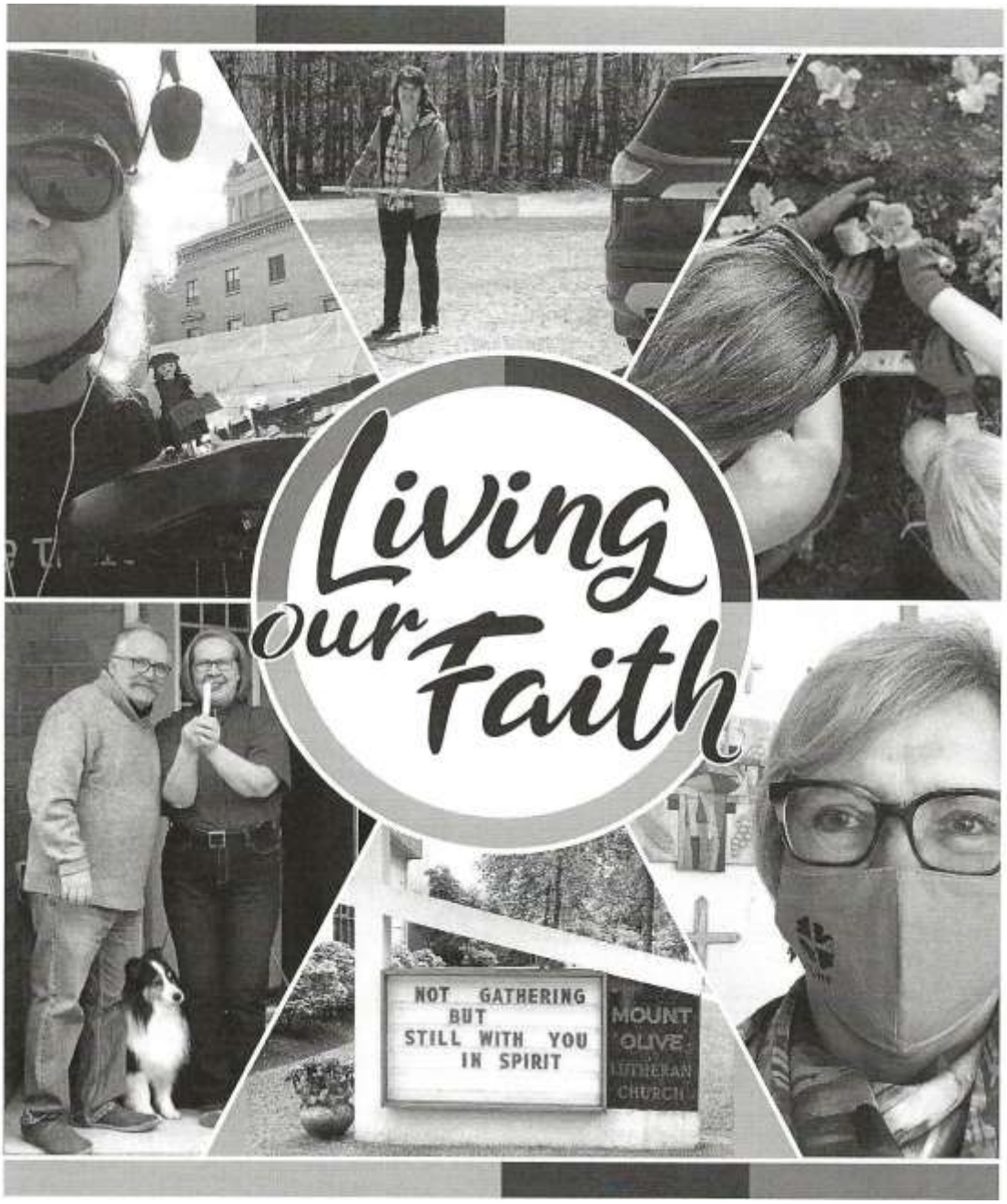

Messiah Lutheran

Annual Report

ELCIC
In Mission for Others

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Saskatchewan Synod – 2021 Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

Dear partners in the Gospel,

This year, based on a number of questions that we often receive at synod office, I would like to take a moment to say a few words about the role of the synod and the role of congregations.

Congregations or faith communities are the core of our church. At the congregational level, the Word is preached, the sacraments are shared, and service to the world is carried out. At the congregational level 'the rubber hits the road' for our church.

What is a synod? The word synod comes from the Greek words *sun* (with) and *hodos* (road). A synod is those who are literally 'with each other on the road.' By 'Saskatchewan Synod' we mean all the congregations and related ministries that walk together in Saskatchewan (and NW Manitoba). Congregations are remarkably independent bodies, but congregations gather themselves into synods to accomplish things an individual congregation could not. More than simply taking further care of itself, a congregation belongs to a synod to take care of other congregations who from time to time need the support offered by the wider synod.

Constitutionally, Synod council is the governing body of the synod of congregations and the bishop serves as the synod's lead pastor and chief executive officer. This synod leadership is set up to do a number of things; among them, to provide support to the synod's congregations and ministries, to inspire vision, to keep in mind the work of the church beyond the boundaries of the congregation (and beyond the boundaries of the synod), and to provide direction to its congregations and ministries.

How does the synod of congregations resource that synod leadership? Financial giving to ensure leadership for our synod is determined independently by each congregation. Each congregation contributes to the synod balancing their own resources with a strong sense of call to provide support for the synod: for congregations in need, for our national church, for our seminary. And so, as followers of Jesus, we bear each other's burdens.

Report on 2021

This report briefly addresses two items:

1. The benevolence received by synod leadership in 2021 from the synod of congregations
2. How synod leadership has worked with that benevolence.

Benevolence received from synod congregations in 2021

Rather than speak directly to this, I'm inserting here a paragraph provided by our finance manager: *Congregational support remained at 2020 levels, 100% of budget but 80% of pre-COVID support. Reduced income was somewhat offset with reduction of travel and travel costs by both synod council and committees, and bishop and assistants. Sask Synod also benefitted from federal grant programs which subsidized salaries and rent to offset income shortfalls. Overall, the general fund is in the black for 2021 but staffing levels are tight. The 2022 budget anticipates a partial return to pre-pandemic congregational benevolence levels while preparing to face a deficit should benevolence remain lower than in the past. Thank you for your ongoing participation through benevolence in the work of our church synod-wide.*

How Synod leadership has worked with the benevolence received from synod congregations in 2021

Synod council has directed the benevolence from congregations as follows:
Synod council continued to "pay it forward" by contributing as 'first fruits' ('off the top') 35% of congregational benevolence to support key partners in ministry: 20% to the ministry of our National Church; 15% to Lutheran Theological Seminary, our seminary in Saskatoon.

Synod council approved a budget for the work of the bishop's office. The bishop's office employs a total of 2 Full time equivalents to support the administrative and pastoral work of the bishop in supporting our synod of 102 congregations, 3 synod ministries, and 125 rostered ministers (about half of which are retired).

- The Administrative Team at our Saskatoon office consists of a .75-time office manager, a .5-time executive assistant, and a .2-time finance manager. The administrative team at the office in Saskatoon continues to develop communication channels to our synod council and committees, congregations, ministries and rostered ministers as well as assisting them in administrative and financial matters. The synod website, Share point sites, synod leadership email distribution lists, SaskSynod News, and video conferencing are key tools for their work.
- The Pastoral Team supports congregations, ministries and rostered ministers 'on the road', with a .25-time Assistant to the Bishop for the northern region of the synod, and a .25-time Assistant to the Bishop for the southern region of the synod. The pastoral team continues to connect with congregations seeking leadership: some looking to call a pastor, others seeking ways of being church when the parish could no longer afford or secure a full-time pastor. The pastoral team handles specific requests for support from members of the roster, as well as seeking to stay in contact with the roster--although the pandemic has made this work more challenging.

Two key accomplishments of the bishop's office as a whole in 2021: providing a virtual synod convention in June and providing a hybrid in-person and virtual Fall Leadership Conference for the rostered ministers this fall. It is a small but mighty team! One other key accomplishment of the bishop's office this year was the development of virtual Town Halls. The Town Halls gathered both rostered and lay leadership creating a grassroots gathering of 'synod leadership'. The Town Halls enabled us to face together the various challenges for congregations during the ever-changing pandemic and to develop shared synod guidelines for publishing on the synod website.

Closing words

So here we are. We have lived through a full 12-month year with all the challenges of the pandemic. What does the future look like? None of us can say with certainty. But God is good.

So, I invite you, again, as people of faith, to enter 2022 placing the work of our synod and ourselves in God's hands in this familiar prayer: *You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Peace, Bishop Sid

(To stay in contact with the Synod, visit the Synod website at www.sasksynod.ca and sign up for Synod News.)

Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting
Agenda
April 24, 2022

1 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

2 Opening Devotions – Pastor Fran

3 Adoption of Agenda

4 Approval of AGM Minutes – June 6, 2021
- **4.1 Business Arising**

5 Financial
- **5.1 2021 Financial Statement**
- **5.2 2021 Internal Financial Review Report**
- **5.3 Envelope Secretary**
- **5.4 2022 Budget**
- **5.5 2022 Internal Review Recommendation**

6 Reports
- **6.1 Council**
- **6.2 Pastor**
- **6.3 Worship Ministry Team**
  - **6.3.1 Altar Guild**
- **6.4 Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team**
- **6.5 Education Ministry Team**
  - **6.5.1 Sunday School**
  - **6.5.2 Youth**
- **6.6 Property Maintenance Ministry Team**
- **6.7 Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)**
- **6.8 Men's Breakfast Group**

7 Elections
- **7.1 Church Council**
- **7.2 Nominating Committee**

8 New Business
- **8.1 Treaty Land Acknowledgement**

9 Closing Devotions – Pastor Fran

Messiah Lutheran Church
2020 Annual General Meeting
June 6, 2021 @ 11:30 A.M.

M I N U T E S

1. **Call to Order and Introductory Remarks**
   Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. A total of 16 members signed the attendance sheet.

2. **Opening Devotions – Pastor Fran**
   Pastor Fran Schmidt led the group in Opening Devotions with a Prayer, Reading, Hymn, and Litany that was prepared by ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**
   Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Donna Meyers to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

4. **Approval of AGM Minutes – March 8, 2020**
   Motion: Moved by Elaine Serfas, seconded by Lois Manchur to adopt the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2019 as presented. Carried.

   4.1 Business Arising
   There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. **Financial**
   5.1 2020 Financial Statement
   Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2020 Financial Statements and answered questions.
   Motion: Moved by Harvey Jacobsen, seconded by Hazel Schultz that the 2020 Financial Statements be approved as presented. Carried.

   5.2 2020 Internal Financial Review Report
   Garry Reinhardt read the Report of Financial Review for the Year Ending 2020.
   Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Donna Meyers that the Internal Financial Review Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

   5.3 Envelope Secretary
   Harvey Jacobsen brought forward a motion to dispense with personalized offering envelopes and move to a generic envelope to save costs. Members discussed this option. We will adapt any remaining, current envelopes that we have on hand in order to recycle them.
   Motion: Moved by Harvey Jacobsen that we move to using generic offering envelopes rather than the current personalized envelopes, Seconded by Randi Arnot. Carried.

   5.4 2021 Budget
   Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2021 Budget.
   Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Donna Meyers that the Budget for 2021 be accepted as presented. Carried.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde acknowledged and thanked Garry Reinhardt, Morris Hesje, and Harvey Jacobson for their work in the tracking of finances for the church. All people who contribute to the operation of the church were acknowledged and thanked for their contributions. Merv Bender was thanked for his work in operating the cameral and other duties in order to record the services.

5.5 2021 Internal Review Recommendation

Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Merv Bender to waive the appointment of an auditor for 2021. Carried.

Debbie Honch and Tim Leson have agreed to perform an Internal Financial Review for 2020.
Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Donna Meyers that Debbie Honch and Tim Leson to accepted to perform the Financial Review Report for 2021. Carried.

6. Reports

6.1 Council
Cheryl reviewed the highlights of the Council report. See the written report for details.

6.2 Pastor
Pastor Fran reviewed her Annual Report. See the written report for details of Pastor Fran's activities in 2020.

6.3 Worship Ministry Team
See the written report for details.
6.3.1 Altar Guild: See the written report for details.

6.4 Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team
See the written report for details.

6.5 Education Ministry Team
See the written report for details.
6.5.1 Sunday School: See the written report for details.
6.5.2 Youth: See the written report for details.

6.6 Property Maintenance Ministry Team
See the written report for details.

6.7 Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)
See the written report for details.

6.8 Men's Breakfast Group
See the written report for details.

Motion: Moved by Hazel Schultz, seconded by Dennis Serfas that all reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

7. Elections

7.1 Church Council

The nominating committee recommended Randi Arnot.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.
Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Alfred Kristiansen that nominations cease. Carried.

Randi Arnot was declared elected for a three-year term, by acclamation.

It was noted that the number of Council members now stands at six (Council membership is a minimum of six and maximum of nine).

Cheryl Bauer Hyde thanked council members for their contributions during 2020. As well, outgoing members Lois Manchur, Donna Meyers, and Darren Sundbo were thanked for their contributions during their terms.

7.2 Nominating Committee

Wayne Manchur (and Paula Sundbo) will remain on the Nominating Committee.
Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Randi Arnot that we accept (these people) for the Nominating Committee for 2021. Carried.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde thanked the committee for their work recruiting members for Council.

8. New Business

8.1 Constitution/Bylaw Amendments

Cheryl Bauer Hyde provided an overview of the amendments to the Messiah Constitution and Bylaws.
Motion: Moved by Elaine Serfas, seconded by Lois Manchur that we accept the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Carried.

9. Closing Devotions – Pastor Fran

Pastor Fran lead the closing devotion.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Bank	$102,125	$59,235
Petty cash	50	50
GST and accounts receivable	192	19,035
Term deposit	2,528	2,500
Conexus membership share	5	5
	$104,900	$80,825
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Key deposits	$360	$340
Accounts payable	3,327	2,939
	3,687	3,279
Term loan due on demand (note 4)	40,000	30,000
	$43,687	$33,279
EQUITY		
Equity	61,213	47,546
	$104,900	$80,825

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED _____
Chairperson

_____
Vice-Chairperson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$139,281	$177,993
Offerings – loose	3,000	692	2,744
Missions	4,700	4,760	4,700
Other Income (note 5)	4,500	2,949	3,327
Total revenue	172,200	147,682	188,764
Expenditures			
Missions			
ELCIC	2,400	2.340	2,440
Lutheran World Relief	2,200	2,420	2,230
SK Synod special contribution	8,500	8,500	6,000
Other	100	0	30
	13,200	13,260	10,700
Ministries			
Education			
Confirmation supplies	500	394	269
Parish education – general	500	2,407	535
Parish education – Sunday School	500	32	0
Stewardship program	100	0	0
	1,600	2,833	804
Youth			
Campership	1,000	0	0
Program costs	500	0	0
	1,500	0	0
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	0

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Ministries (continued)			
Worship:			
Offering envelopes	500	0	442
Sanctuary supplies	100	76	87
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	1,500
Sunday service broadcasting	1,500	155	4,404
Sundry	1,000	480	1,383
	4,600	2,211	7,816
Conferences and conventions:			
Pastor's\lay leadership conferences	500	225	0
National / Synodical convention	1,131	956	0
	1,631	1,181	0
Building			
Insurance	6.900	7,940	5,367
Repairs and maintenance	2,500	1,856	1,462
Supplies – janitorial	500	497	269
Utilities - power	4,000	2,742	3,439
- energy	4,000	3,612	3,650
- water	1,000	715	1,025
Snow removal	1,500	691	1,924
Spruce Home cemetery	400	400	400
	20,800	18,453	17,536
Office			
Advertising	150	0	150
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	169	184
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	1,178	654
Photocopies maintenance agreement	1,100	1,086	1,074
Postage	400	283	339
Parish visitation honourarium	200	0	0
Transportation subsidy	100	52	29
Christmas supplies and other	1,000	(65)	756
Telephone	4,500	3,942	4,253
	8,650	6,645	7,439

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	69,045	69,045	67,692
Pastor's mileage	1,000	600	317
Supply Pastor's and additional staff	1,000	0	738
Administrative assistant	35,316	25,700	34,626
Janitorial salary	6,000	5,163	12,000
Organists	1,500	961	1,240
Treasurer honorarium	1,200	1,200	1,200
Employee benefits-CPP\EI	7,174	6,414	7,222
ELCIC pension	8,350	7,574	8,185
ELCIC Benefits	3,576	3,007	3,092
Health and dental	1,990	2,392	2,196
WCB	300	306	304
Continuing education	600	600	600
Book allowance	150	150	150
	137,201	123,112	139,562
Total expenditures	189,482	167,695	183,857
Net income(loss) from operations before other items	(17,282)	(20,013)	4,907
Other items			
CEBA loan forgivable (note 6)	10,000	10,000	10,000
TWS subsidy (note 6)	0	0	2,960
CEWS subsidy (note 6)	5,000	23,680	18,499
	15,000	33,680	31,459
Net income (loss)	(2,282)	13,667	36,366
Equity, beginning of year	47,546	47,546	11,180
Equity, end of year	$ 45,264	$ 61,213	$ 47,546

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	**2020**
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$13,667	$ 36,366
Change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST and accounts receivable	18,843	(18,759)
Key deposits	20	(20)
Term loan	10,000	30,000
Damage deposit receivable	0	0
Term deposit	(28)	(2,500)
Accounts payable	388	(160)
Increase in cash from operations	42,890	44,927
Cash, beginning of year	59,285	14,358
Cash, end of year	$102,175	$ 59,285

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
CAPITAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank-operating - unrestricted funds	$ 1,753	$ 4,254
- reserves	33,936	38,211
Conexus- redeemable member equity	7	7
	35,696	42.472
Bank-designated funds	16,574	12,764
GST receivable	271	727
	52,541	55,963
	576,710	608,982
Capital assets (note 2)	$629,251	$664,945
	=======	=======
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Capital reserves	$ 33,936	38,211
Designated funds		
- Youth group	4,685	4,685
- MLW	2,327	2,327
- Men's breakfast group	942	698
- Caring Ministry	8,620	5,054
	50,510	50,975
EQUITY		
Equity	578,741	613,970
	$629,251	$664,945
	=======	=======

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED _____
Chairperson

_____
Vice-Chairperson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
CAPITAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Cash inflow			
Offerings - Regular	$3,000	$3,675	$32,574
- Gifts & memorials	500	2,200	4,136
Interest earned and other revenue	100	43	84
Transferred from (to) reserves	10,000	6,800	25,390
Transferred from(to) designated funds	(500)	(2,525)	(33,481)
Total cash inflow	13,100	10,193	28,703
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases-building	6,500	6,229	25,682
- furniture and equipment	2.500	3,572	6,225
Capital lease-telephones	2,000	1,935	1,935
Bank charges	0	338	0
Major repairs	1,500	1,076	1,135
Total cash outflow	12,500	13,150	34,977
Net cash inflow(outflow) from operations	600	(2,957)	(6,274)
Amortization		(42,073)	(41,756)
Non operating expenditures-capital purchases		9,801	31,907
Net income (loss)		(35,229)	(16,123)
Equity, beginning of year		613,970	630,093
Equity, end of year		$ 578,741	$ 613,970

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
CAPITAL FUND
***DECEMBER 31,* 2021**

	2021	2020
Unrestricted operating cash		
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$(35,229)	$(16,123)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	42,073	41,756
	6,844	25,633
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST receivable	456	(594)
Accounts payable	0	(602)
	7,300	24,437
Cash provided by (used for) investment activities:		
Purchase of capital asset	(9,801)	(31,907)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(2,501)	(7,470)
Unrestricted operating cash, beginning of year	4,254	11,724
Unrestricted operating cash, end of year	$ 1,753	$ 4,254
Designated, deferred and trust funds cash		
Cash provided by (used for) funds:		
Capital reserves	(4,275)	10,811
Designated funds	3,810	2,225
Increase (decrease) in cash	(465)	13,036
Cash, beginning of year	50,975	37,939
Cash, end of year	$ 50,510	$ 50,975

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Capital assets: Current year purchases of capital assets are capitalized at cost, along with the assets acquired in 1993 and prior to the construction of the church building are being amortized on a straight-line basis as follows:

Building additions 1997 and prior	35 years
Building additions beginning 1998	40 years
Furniture and equipment 1997 and prior	5 years
Furniture and equipment beginning 1998	10 years
Parking lot	5 years
Shed	10 years

2. CAPITAL ASSETS

	2021			2020
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	$ 167,586	$ 0	$167,586	$167,586
Building	1,020,159	645,635	374,524	398,880
Furnishings & Equipment	238,643	204,043	34,600	42,405
Parking lot	3,980	3,980	0	0
Shed	2,368	2,368	0	111
	$1,432,736	$856,026	$576,710	$608,982

3. BANK INDEBTNESS

At December 31, 2021, Messiah had a line of credit totaling $50,000 (2019 - $50,000), with interest at prime plus 5.45%, none of which was drawn. The line of credit is secured by a general security agreement.

4. TERM LOAN DUE ON DEMAND

Conexus Credit Union Canada Emergence Benefit Account loan, bearing interest at 0% until December 31, 2022, with no required principal repayments. Commencing January 2023, monthly interest only payments at 5% are required on any outstanding balance. Principal repayments can be made at the discretion of Messiah at any time prior to the due date. Principal repayment is due December 31, 2025, with $20,000 forgivable if the full principal balance is repaid by December 31, 2022.

	2021	2020
Term loan due on Demand	$60,000	$40,000
Forgivable portion of Canada Emergency Benefit Account term loan	(20,000)	(10,000)
	$40,000	$ 30,000

5. OTHER INCOME

	2021	2020
Other income includes the following:		
Operating fund		
Fund-raising revenue	$1,566	$1,189
Premises usage	1,250	1,725
Miscellaneous	133	413
	$ 2,949	$ 3,327

6. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Messiah recognizes government assistance when there is reasonable assurance that it will comply with the conditions required to qualify for the assistance, and the assistance will be received. Messiah recognizes government assistance as other income items.

Messiah recognizes government assistance in the form of forgivable loans as other items income in the year that the forgivable loan is received.

CEBA (refer to Note 4): In April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Government of Canada announced the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) Program to support businesses with financing for expenses that cannot be avoided or deferred as they take steps to safely navigate a period of shutdown. The forgivable portion ($20,000) of the CEBA loan has been recorded as other items. The portion which has not been forgiven at December 31, 2021, is $40,000, and is recorded as a current liability.

TWS: The Temporary Wage Subsidy for Employers (TWS) was a three-month measure that allowed eligible employers to reduce the amount of federal, provincial or territorial income tax that they had to remit to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The subsidy was equal to 10% (or a lower percentage the employer elects to claim) on the renumeration paid from March 18 to June 19, 2020, up to $1,375 for each eligible employee. In 2020, Messiah received TWS government assistance of $2,960.

CEWS: In response to the negative economic impact of COVID-19, the Government of Canada introduced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program in March 2020. CEWS provides a wage subsidy on eligible remuneration, subject to limits per employee, to eligible employers based on certain criteria, including demonstration of revenue declines as a result of COVID-19. The subsidy was extended to October 23, 2021. Messiah received CEWS government assistance of $18,499.18 in 2020 and $23,680 in 2021 which has been reflected in other items income.

Report of the Internal Financial Reviewers for the Year Ending 2021

To the Members of Messiah Lutheran Church
Prince Albert, SK.

The financial statements of the 2021 annual report summarize accurately the General Ledger and General Journals as prepared by Messiah Lutheran Church.

After carefully checking the invoices, cheques, monthly bank statements and final balances for each month, we the appointed internal financial reviewers, confirm to the best of our abilities that this is a true and accurate statement of the financial transactions for Messiah Lutheran Church, Prince Albert, for the 2021 year.

Dated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, this 1st day of March, 2022.

Original signed by Debbie Honch

Original signed by Tim Leson

Envelope Secretary Report
For the year ending 31 December 2021

This year we issued 119 tax receipts for a total $151,296.26. Last year, donations totaled $220,222, a difference of nearly $69,000. One must keep in mind that last year's total included a one-time donation of $50,000 and that distorts the distribution as noted in the table. Nevertheless, donations are significantly less.

I include a table giving a brief distribution analysis of donations, which allows for some idea of the proportion of amounts as it relates to number of donors. As you can see, much of our funding comes from a relatively small number of households. That has always been the case. But it demonstrates that a lot can change when death or illness or admission to senior care facilities occurs or when people move. Most of our funding comes from retired folk. Circumstances can change quickly.

Donations are down this year, both in terms of donations and in numbers of donors. The pandemic has been at least partly responsible for these decreases. In my experience, fellowship is a significant part of church life. When fellowship decreases other things suffer. Thankfully, I have noticed several of our donors continuing to be faithful as was evidenced by a number of significant donations coming at the end of the year.

	% of Donors 2021	% of Donations 2021	% of Donors 2020	% of Donations 2020
Over $5,000	6.7%	29%	4%	36.8%
Over $3,000	14.3%	51.3%	16%	63%
Over $2,000	19.3%	61%	24%	73%
Over $1,000	45%	86.7%	45%	90.7%
Under $1,000	55%	13.4%	55%	9.3%

At our annual meeting last year, a decision was made to discontinue our usual practice of ordering numbered sets of offering envelopes. This was done because a significant amount of our envelopes were going unused. This is both expensive and wasteful. Many donors have chosen to give by way of E-transfers or by automated debits, while others continue their practice of placing their offerings in the plate. We will continue to accommodate whatever method suits individual preferences.

For those interested in arranging automatic debits, please contact the office. For those who prefer the traditional offering envelope method, you may use any unused envelopes from previous years. The only relevant information on the envelopes is your identifying information. The date is irrelevant. You may pick up a supply of offering envelopes that may have had the number blanked out. Simply replace the blanked out number with your own personal number. If you are not sure of your donation number, you may contact the office, or me, or check the list available in the narthex. In addition to your number, you may prefer to write your name on the envelope. We keep all envelopes for a period of time in order to track down and correct any errors that may occur.

Submitted by:

Harvey Jacobsen, Envelope Secretary

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 OPERATING BUDGET

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$139,281	$160,000
Offerings - loose	3,000	692	3,000
Missions	4,700	4,760	4,700
Fund raising	2,000	1,566	2,000
Premises usage	2,000	1,250	2,000
Other revenue	500	133	500
Total Revenue	172,200	147.682	172,200
Expenditures			
Missions			
Sask. Synod\ELCIC	2,400	2,340	2,400
CLWR	2.200	2,420	2,200
Sask Synod Benevolence	8,500	8,500	8,500
Other	100	0	100
	13,200	13,260	13,200
Ministries			
Education			
Confirmation supplies	500	394	400
Education – general & adult	500	2,407	500
Education – Sunday School	500	32	500
Stewardship program	100	0	100
Caring Ministry & Community Service	0	0	500
	1,600	2,833	2,000
Youth			
Campership	1,000	0	500
Program costs	500	0	500
	1,500	0	1,000
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	300

Expenditures (continued)	**2021**	**2021**	**2022**
Ministries (continued)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**
Worship			
Offering envelopes	500	0	0
Sanctuary supplies	100	76	100
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	1,500
Sunday Service Broadcasting	1,500	155	1,600
Sundry	1,000	480	500
	4,600	2,211	3,700
Conferences and conventions			
Pastors\Lay leadership conferences	500	225	500
Regional conference	0	0	0
Synod / National Convention levy	1,131	956	1,000
	1,631	1,181	1,500
Building			
Insurance	6,900	7,940	8,000
Repairs and Maintenance	2,500	1,856	2,500
Janitorial	0	0	4,500
Supplies – janitorial	500	497	500
Utilities – power	4,000	2,742	3,000
- gas	4,000	3,618	4,000
- water	1,000	715	1,000
Snow removal	1,500	691	1,500
Spruce Home cemetery	400	400	400
	20,800	18,453	25,400
Office			
Website	150	0	100
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	169	200
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	1,178	1,000
Photocopy maintenance agreement	1,100	1,086	1,100
Postage	400	283	400
Parish visitation honourarium	200	0	100
Transportation subsidy	100	52	200
Christmas supplies and other	1,000	(65)	1,000
Telephone	4,500	3,942	4,000
	8,650	6,645	8,100

Expenditures (continued)	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	69,045	67,693	70,426
Pastor's mileage	1,000	600	1,000
Supply Pastors and additional staff	1,000	0	1,000
Administrative Assistant	35,316	25,700	20,994
Janitorial	6,000	5,163	0
Organists	1,500	961	1,500
Treasurer honourarium	1,200	1,200	1,200
Employee Benefits – CPP / EI	7,184	6,414	6,304
- ELCIC pension	8,350	7,574	7,314
- ELCIC benefits	3,576	3,007	3,135
- Health and dental	1,990	2,392	4,188
- WCB	300	306	300
- Continuing education	600	600	600
- Book Allowance	150	150	150
	137,201	123,112	118,111
Total Expenditures	189,482	167,695	173,311
Net income (loss) from operations before other items	(17,282)	(20,013)	(1,111)
Other items			
CEBA loan forgivable	10,000	10,000	0
CEWS Subsidy	5,000	23,680	0
	15,000	33,680	0
Net income (loss)	(2,282)	13,667	(1,111)
Equity, beginning of year	47,546	47,546	61,213
Equity, end of year	45,264	61,213	60,102

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Cash inflow			
Offerings – regular	$ 3,000	$ 3,675	3,000
Gifts and memorial	500	2,200	500
Interest earned and other revenue	100	73	100
Transferred from reserves	10,000	6,800	10,000
Transferred (to) reserves	(500)	(2,525)	(500)
Total cash inflow	13,100	10,193	13,100
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases - furniture and equipment	2,500	3,572	2,500
Capital purchases – building	6,500	6,229	6,500
Capital lease – telephones	2,000	1,935	2,000
Major repairs – other	1,500	1,076	1,500
Bank charges	0	338	0
Total cash outflow	12,500	13,150	12,500
Net cash (outflow) from operations	600	(2,957)	600
Amortization	(41,756)	(42,073)	(40,000)
Non operating expenditures – capital assets	10,000	9,801	10,000
Net income (loss)	(31,156)	(35,229)	(29,400)
Equity, beginning of year	613,970	613,970	578,741
Equity, end of year	$582,814	$578,741	$549,341

Messiah Council

Messiah Council's Report
For the Year ending December 31, 2021

Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' John 20:29

Paraphrase from Eternity for Today April 24:
We have lived through various degrees of lockdown during the pandemic, and the disciples' fear of the unknown may resonate with us. We need to take comfort in Jesus' words. This blessing is a reminder to go forth in faith …

Throughout 2021, Council dealt with ongoing operational matters and adjustments based on Synod guidelines and Saskatchewan Health Authority restrictions. Many of previous activities remained on pause. While in-person worship services began again, on-line access continues for worship, bible studies, confirmation classes and Sunday School. And as stated in last year's report, 'church' does not mean the building. *Messiah Church is the people and ministry of our congregation.*

At the end of June, Donna Deobald retired, and we give thanks for her dedication and contribution to the life of our church. We welcomed Lisa Haight as Administrative Assistant in September. At the end of December, Vimy Penner retired from the janitorial role, and we give thanks for her conscientious approach and assistance in the transition to Safeguard Property Maintenance.

We give thanks for stewardship within Messiah – both in volunteer time and financial support. In addition to pre-authorized transfers, financial contributions can be made by e-transfer and Canada Helps, as well as the usual donations by cheque/cash. We are also grateful for the Federal Government Covid-19 financial assistance that continued until October.

Messiah will continue to adjust and transition over the next months as plans are made to resume Sunday morning coffee, potlucks and other gatherings that were the congregational norm. Later this year, Council would like to bring the congregation together to review our mission, talk about our vision going forward, and build understanding around treaty land acknowledgement.

Thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support, and to Pastor Fran, Lisa; Council members Merv Bender, Jean Meyers, Alfred Kristensen, Randi Arnot, Shannon Pettem; Financial team Garry Reinhardt, Morris Hesje, Harvey Jacobsen; and all the ministry teams and committees.

So let us go forward in faith …

Cheryl Bauer Hyde

On behalf of Messiah Council

Pastor Fran Schmidt

Pastor's Report, Annual General Meeting
March 2022

Introduction
From St. Paul to the church in Rome, "For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." Romans 1: 11-12

Reflection:
These years since Covid came into our lives have been the most challenging of my ministry. Even learning another language and living in another culture, though difficult at times, was nothing in comparison to the toll of the last two years. Almost all of the ways that ministry is offered and to which we are accustomed changed. We adapted and shifted, then pivoted again, responding to the current realities. Council had to make some very difficult decisions in this time but did so to ensure the safety and well-being of the congregation which was always the primary concern. We worked together to provide pastoral care, bible study, Christian education, and worship in virtual formats, but those virtual platforms have not always resonated with everyone.

As a society, we have lived through unimaginable social disruptions all at the same time as Covid. The cumulation of these stresses and uncertainties has affected our mental, physical and spiritual well-being in ways we are only beginning to understand. And yet, even in all of this, our God has been faithful, giving us grace upon grace to do what is needed, to support one another, to weep and laugh, to listen and pray for one another. My continuing prayer is that even though it has not been an easy time to be church, that we will continue to do God's work in the world, caring for one another, bearing one another's burdens, lifting one another up for that is what it means to be the body of Christ.

Thank you:
Thanks be to God for all of you and the ministry we share. I cannot name all of those I wish to thank. The liturgy is the work of the people, and I feel that ministry is the work of the people, too. From the work of Church Council to that of the Ministry Teams, to musicians, readers, ushers, camera and power point operators, those who clear snow, those who call and care for others, who maintain the building, who give of their time for altar care, to those who donate and collect items for the food bank, those who assist with teaching Sunday school, leading Men's Breakfast, and more. We are the body of Christ, and our work together, builds one another up in a time it is needed the most. Thank you to each of you for all of the ways you support ministry at Messiah!

Pastoral Priorities:
We know that Covid shifted how ministry was offered in 2020 and that continued into 2021. We had months when we did not worship in person, and long periods of time when in person visitation was also put on hold. Much of the ministry that was offered shifted to online options using our YouTube Channel or Zoom platforms. Holy Communion had periods where it was suspended or received in one element. Despite these shifts, worship, caring ministry, and Christian education were the priorities in this time.

Worship/Preaching
Worship Services:

- Preside and preach at weekly worship services, hybrid format continues.
- We began January 2021 with online worship only and no in-person gatherings. We offered Holy Communion online for those who felt comfortable with this option, as we did not re-gather in person until the end of May.
- Ash Wednesday, Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday were all online only.
- Our first in person service in several months was Confirmation/Pentecost Sunday, May 30. It has been a long journey, with lots of ups and downs throughout the year, but we continued to worship in person since that date.
- Worship Service at Kinasao, Celebration Weekend
- In the fall, we had special services Thanksgiving; Reformation; All Saints; Advent & Christmas Eve. Our attendance varied, but there was a feeling of gratitude to be able to gather together.
- Longest Night, December 21: This was offered both in person and online.
- Worship Services at Good Shepherd were mostly suspended, until September. We began with 15 attending, grew to 25 in October and by December had 30+ attending.
- Plans began in December to start offering a monthly worship service at Points West independent living in January 2022.

Visitation
Member visits, funerals, baptism, pastoral care:

- January: 48
- February: 33
- March: 58
- April: 43
- May: 33
- June: 39
- July: holidays
- August: 59
- September: 46
- October: 21
- November: 35
- December: 77 Total of 492 visits over 11 months.

On-Call at Victoria Hospital: June 14-20, August 16-22, October 10-17

Youth Ministry
Despite Covid, we did plan a few youth activities:

- February: Elk Ridge fun day (unfortunately, it was postponed b/c of cold temperatures)
- October: Corn Maze in Rosthern
- December: Virtual Christmas Party

Confirmation
Messiah had 7 youth in confirmation class, with 8 Confirmands in May. We have been meeting by Zoom since Covid began. Starting in the fall, we have 5 youth in confirmation

Sharing Ministry-Ministry Teams:

Caring Ministry and Community Service Team
Jean Meyers will have a more detailed report, as we met regularly and had several projects this year.
In January, Linda Moriarty and I received our training as Stephen Leaders with the Stephen Ministries program. Throughout the year, we shared information about Stephen Ministries, to help grow the congregation's awareness and interest in this vital ministry. And with the same grant from the Saskatchewan Synod, the possible campus ministry project continues to be a part of our discussions although it may not get fully off the ground until the fall of 2022 now.

Education Ministry Team
We have met regularly and welcomed two new members!
Notably, we decided to offer Sunday School through Zoom and had between 8-12 young people joining us. We put together a monthly resource packet, and classes were led by me. In the fall, we continued in this format, with between 6-8 children.

Worship Team
We did not meet, but some members continued to be active in assisting with special services. Thank you to all of our musicians and those who shared their gifts with us in worship this year: Merv Bender, Colleen Bowen, Gordon Dixon, Gord Hein, Tracy Feher, Brenna Feher, Jordan Feher, Kai Finnestad, Jack Jones, Garry Miller, Linda Moriarty, Elaine Serfas, Susan Slind, and Kristi Stolee. Thank you to our power point operators, readers, ushers and communion assistants!

Lectionary Bible Study
What began as a morning coffee group morphed into both a Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening Lectionary Bible Study. And then by fall, both groups merged into a Wednesday evening study. We have met regularly with a consistent group forming.

Wider Church Ministry
Synodical
There were several Saskatchewan Synod Town Hall meetings this year with Bishop Sid Haugen and Rev. Dr. Ali Tote guiding conversation and sharing information about Covid. I also attended the virtual Saskatchewan Synod Convention on June 4 & 5 and the Rostered Leaders Study Conference, virtually, September 28-30.

Ministerial/Ecumenical
Monthly gatherings:
- ELCIC PA and Area cluster continued to meet monthly on Zoom.
- And there were various meetings with the Saskatchewan Ecumenical Campus Chaplains Group (for the campus ministry project)

Staff Changes
Our Administrative Assistant, Donna Deobald, retired at the end of June 2021. In August we advertised for this position, with a revised job description, and hired Lisa Haight, who began August 30, 2021. Our caretaker, Vimy Penner, also retired in 2021. We thank both Donna and Vimy for many years of faithful service to Messiah!

Continuing Education
My course in Spiritual Direction began in March 2021. It is a two-year course that will result in certification as a Spiritual Director.

Congregational Statistics: Pastoral acts:

Confirmation (8):

Hansen, Kylee	Hufnagel, Jackson	Lamontagne, Graham
Pettem, Madison	Schewaga, Carson	Schewaga, Kylee
Tanchuk, Ashton	Walters, Lucas	

Marriages (2):
Steven Danielson and Charlene McDonald (Deacon Eldon Danielson)
Sarah Cooper and Benjamin Barkway (Pastor Iris Kristjansdottir)

Baptisms (4):
Blair Kasey Douglas Wolkowsky (at Victoria Hospital) – March 13, 2021
Abigail Deborah Kozakewich – September 26, 2021
William Christopher Murray – September 26, 2021
Cori Ann Thorpe – October 3, 2021

Deaths (10):
Finch, George – February 22, 2021
Nilson, Joyce - March 8, 2021
Wolkowsky, Blair Kasey Douglas (at Victoria Hospital) – March 13, 2021
Schmid, Darlene – April 19, 2021 (Rev. Hugh Farmer)
Dixon, Diana – May 7, 2021
Laxdal, Martha - May 9, 2021
Oftedal, Arne - September 15, 2021
Sundbo, Eileen – October 9, 2021
Romoren, Henry – October 31, 2021
Rinholm, Sonja – December 14, 2021

Transfers In (0) **Transfers Out (1):** Grace Morgan

Membership Summary:

Baptized Membership	566
Confirmed Membership	376
Household Membership	195
Non-Membership Households	20

Average Worship Attendance: No in-person Worship, January to May 23, views between 35-50

- May 30 to December 26, 2021: average weekly attendance is 38
- Online views between 35-50

Concluding Remarks: We have come this far by faith and Thanks be to God for the grace, strength, and resilience to walk this journey of faith day by day.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Fran Schmidt

Worship Ministry Team
Included in Pastor Fran's Report

Worship Ministry Team – Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continues to serve the needs of the Messiah congregation by looking after the preparation and clean up for each Communion Sunday. At times when Communion was available, only individual cups and individual wafers were used. Other protocols to protect those taking Communion were implemented, including social distancing and hand sanitizing.

Paraments and banners are changed as necessary throughout the year.

Submitted by:

Jean Meyers and Audrey Johnson

Education Ministry Team

The Education Ministry Team is responsible for the spiritual growth and fellowship opportunities for Sunday School children through to high school youth and beyond.

Submitted by:

Merv Bender and Shannon Pettem

Education Ministry Team – Sunday School

To connect with the children during the pandemic, we provided online Sunday School during the 2021 year. It was successful with 4-12 children attending faithfully every week via Zoom. Pastor Fran and the team prepared resource packages for pickup containing crayons, stories, activities, and verses relate to the scripture readings and gospel for each of the Sunday.

Thank you to all who helped with the children at home involved in online church services while looking forward to in person Sunday School in 2022.

Thank you everyone for keeping the children and youth of Messiah Lutheran Church in your prayers and thoughts throughout the year.

Submitted by:

Shannon Pettem, Education Ministry

Education Ministry Team – Youth
Included in Pastor Fran's Report

Caring Ministry and Community Service Ministry Team

The Caring Ministry and Community Service (CMCS) Ministry Team had a productive year despite the COVID-19 restrictions we faced.

The team carried on with many of the activities that have been done in the past, including staffing the Salvation Army Kettle and putting together Christmas Hampers for families in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division. This year the Team initiated a campaign to promote donations for the Prince Albert Food Bank. We give a big thank you to those who generously donated food and made monetary donations for the Christmas hampers and the Food Bank. Eleven large boxes of food and other items were delivered to the Prince Albert Food Bank.

This year, Christmas cards and Easter cards were mailed to members of our Messiah family. Members of the CMCS Ministry Team and others donated cards and time to prepare and mail out these cards. Thank you for a generous donation of stamps to mail these letters, donations of Christmas and Easter cards, and time given to complete this project.

The CMCS team applied for and received funding from the Mission Initiative Fund from the ELCIC Saskatchewan Synod in 2020. This project carried on in 2021. Stephen Ministry materials were purchased, education on the Stephen Ministry program was provided, and a plan to implement Stephen Ministry training was developed.

The ELCIC request was also for funding to establish a Campus Ministry plan for students in post-secondary institutions in Prince Albert. The plan was to prepare food to provide a monthly meal for the students attending Campus Ministry events and to provide Food Safe Training for Church members who will prepare the meals for the Campus Ministry events. One meeting for students was held in the fall of 2021. Other activities were on hold during 2021.

In 2021, the CMCS team applied for a grant from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund. The name of the project is Connecting Our Hearts and Communities. The goal of this mission is to build understanding about the shared history of Treaty 6 Territory and of the local Indigenous peoples. The project strives to foster mutual understanding, respect, and valuing of our diverse cultural identities, as we come together as a community. This project is continuing in 2022.

"Even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

Submitted by:

Randi Arnot, Jean Meyers and the CMCS Ministry Team: Pastor Fran, Angeline Hesje, Debbie Honch, Linda Moriarty, Rose Statz

Property Management Ministry Team

The Property Management Ministry Team is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building, ground and three cemeteries. Currently the team is comprised of Wilf Litzenberger, Troy Hufnagel and Wayne Hyde.

During the past year, three window units were replaced in the Peace Chapel due to rotten frames and several others were inspected to determine their life span. Several smaller maintenance issues within the facility were addressed as they arose, and the final change to LED lighting fixtures was completed in the furnace room. The biggest issue facing us at this time is that the building is still experiencing intermittent roof water leaks associated with the long front shingled slope. A roofing company did inspect it late in the fall, but no obvious problem areas were located. Further inspections are planned during the spring to try and isolate and initiate repairs to the leak sources.

Most of the team's time over the summer was spent on maintaining the vast church grounds, primarily cutting and watering the grass. The front flower beds were cleaned up and plans are to replant them this summer with a low maintenance ground cover. Two windstorms brought down a vast number of branches off the north line of poplar trees which precipitated lengthy cleanups.

The Spruce Home and Hanna cemeteries were inspected and several trees were removed.
Projects proposed for 2022:

- Continue to monitor windows, caulking and painting several of them.
- Installation of three emergency exit light fixtures as identified as a requirement identified during the annual fire department inspections.
- Spring yard cleanup, routine lawn maintenance and parking lot weed spraying.
- Inspection of Birch Hills cemetery, and repairs or replacement of Spruce Home cemetery worship area decking.

The Committee would like to thank Vimy Penner for her dedication and professionalism in performing the cleaning duties at Messiah, and wish her all the best in her retirement. A new janitorial service was retained and began service in January.

The team will continue to employ a proactive and preventative maintenance approach to ensure the Messiah building is properly maintained for today and the future. The team encourages all congregational members to take pride in our facility and to take an active role by letting the team members or the office know of anything that requires attention.

With such a small team, the care and maintenance of our facility to the standards we have been accustomed to is unsustainable. If anyone would like to or can assist the team on any of the projects, please contact Wayne.

Submitted on behalf of the
Property Management Ministry Team
Wayne Hyde

Messiah Lutheran Women

Due to Covid, MLW was not active. Bibles were provided for six Grade 3 students and presented during Advent.

Boxes were provided for congregation donations to the "Mitten Tree" project. These donations were gratefully accepted by Riverside School.

Submitted by

Corrine Amyotte

Men's Breakfast Group

The Messiah men's group began activity in September after 18 months of inactivity because of Covid 19. We have attendance of 8 – 10 men at our breakfast meetings and we meet in the Fellowship Hall.

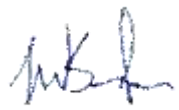
We meet monthly, other than the summer months, usually the first Saturday of the month, at 9:00 am for a continental breakfast followed by some business, Bible study and lots of fellowship and fun!

Bible study continues with the use of the study Bible **"Master Builders Bible for Men"** as well as a book entitled **52 Men of the Bible**. This book provides us with some in-depth description of some of the most prominent men in the Bible.

We in partnership with Kinasao have not hosted a men's retreat since 2019. We do have a retreat planned for April of 2022.

Thanks to all the men who attend so faithfully and participate in this way in the life of Messiah. You are a blessing to this congregation and its members.

Yours in Christ,



Merv Bender

Nominating Committee Report
Church Council

Terms Expiring – 2022

Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Merv Bender
Jean Meyers

One Year left in Term – 2023

Alfred Kristensen
Shannon Pettem

Two Years left in Term – 2024

Randi Arnot

Council positions open for election: three - three-year terms
one - one-year term
two – two-year terms

The Nominating Committee will submit nominations at the Annual General meeting, and further nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

Respectfully submitted by:

Wayne Manchur

ADAPTING, EVOLVING, FLEXIBLE, CREATIVE

Lessons from the pandemic: Year 2

What a year this has been! As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, congregations and communities of the ELCIC continue to seek out safe and appropriate ways to serve and continue the important ministries that God calls us to. In fact the whole church has been adapting, evolving, being flexible, getting creative and partnering with one another in many, many different ways. 2021 may have been challenging but we are people of hope. Together we will manage the challenges and faithfully live into the next chapter, responding to the needs of those around us and upholding life-giving relationships.

Summer Sermon Series

Quite often, "working together" is the means of carrying out a physical task. But as we all so quickly came to know, the COVID-19 pandemic has put its limitations on in-person gatherings, socialization and how we were able to carry out our work. Through the many challenges, bishops, pastors, leaders, volunteers and members across the church demonstrated a newfound strength and resiliency amid the ongoing global pandemic.

Rev. Prema Samuel prepared a sermon for July 18, 2021 which was used across the ELCIC as part of the 2021 Summer Sermon Series.

In looking for new ways help support ordained leaders and congregations as they shifted gears to offering online Sunday services, the ELCIC synod bishops and assistants to the bishops put together 14 pre-recorded sermons for use across the church through the months of June to September. This *Summer Sermon Series* resource provided relief for well-deserved summer holidays, time for leaders to focus on some of the many other needs for their congregation and an opportunity to hear from different leaders from across the church.

"At a certain point we started hearing of concerns as the pandemic wore on," British Columbia Synod Bishop Greg Mohr said. "The exhaustion and stress of our rostered and lay leaders continued to build. We wanted to figure out what we could do to help provide a sermon resource so that pastors could accommodate that to the worship they were preparing for their congregations."

The response was overwhelming. Mohr recalls countless emails and telephone conversations with members from other synods and even in other countries asking for links to the various sermons.

"This served as a way for us to be guest speakers in congregations," he says. "We were obviously unable to travel around and be with the churches in person, but this gave us an opportunity to show face in many congregations once a month. Another side goal this accomplished was the broadening of connections and relationships across the ELCIC.

People just really enjoyed hearing from us, especially out of jurisdiction. Hearing our voices and the different ways we preached helped bring online church alive."

The Feisty Saints of Bergland

Sherri and Carolyn Kreger with quilts and We Care bags for CLWR.

Trinity, Bergland, Ont. is a unique congregation nestled in a small community on the shores of Lake of the Woods. After several years with rostered pastoral care, it became apparent in 1992 that we would no longer be able to support such a ministry. We struggled with our identity but were pleased when Bishop Lee Luetkehoelter sent a letter to us, addressed to the "Feisty Saints of Bergland." We were now a lay-led congregation with no expenses other than general maintenance. We provided full-time programs and our worship life was filled with the Spirit.

Our outreach program became our focus and remains so today. We support Luther Village, provide food and workers for the local food bank, church services for the residents at Long Term Care in Rainy River, supplemental food items for children's lunches at the local school, food hampers for families in need and contribute to skating ice time at the local arena. Beyond our local communities, we contribute to The Urban in Winnipeg, LAMP, the Salvation Army, Family Crisis Centre, Amythest House, and our local missionary in Bangledesh. Our passion abroad is Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). We have made many, many quilts and a multitude of We Care bags. We have been blessed beyond belief with opportunities to give and share.

When COVID-19 drives us out — we drive-in!

Barb Christensen,Treasurer at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, with the offering fishnet.

As the world unexpectedly embraced the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregations of New Denmark Parish (St. Peter's and Bethany,) in Northwestern New Brunswick encapsulated the spirit of their ancestors and adapted to the challenging circumstances before them.

Social distancing measures closed the door on in-person worship and poor bandwidth allocation made virtual worship extremely challenging and often times unfeasible. In light of this, an adaptive and alternative approach was taken: drive-in style worship services held at the local recreation centre parking lot. As vehicles arrive on Sunday morning, a volunteer directs them to a parking spot and ensures that they maintain a two-meter radius from all other vehicles. People remain parked in this location and enjoy the full duration of the service from the comfort of their vehicle. Following the service, the same volunteer directs traffic out of the parking lot, toward the driveway, where one of our treasurers waits to collect the weekly offering using a fishnet that ensures social distancing.

God continues to bless the New Denmark Parish as it strives to remain active and faithful amidst the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has produced. Rather than focus on what the pandemic has prohibited, we strive to focus on the new opportunities that it creates! COVID-19 attempted to drive us out of our buildings, but has instead driven us into a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages and skillsets to work collectively in the service of Christ and the church. Thanks be to God.

#MYELCIC

Highlights via social media from members and leaders across the ELCIC. Do you follow the #myELCIC hashtag?

Eastern Synod-ELCIC *@ESynodELCIC* A snapshot of our life together in worship on the #SecondSundayofAdvent. Martin Luther, Toronto ON.

Tom Brook *@TomBrookTB_CO* Gimli LC adds food pantry to the free library. Take as you need and give as you are able

Saskatchewan Synod *@BishopSidH* About 430 of us had the opportunity to meet on the call with the prime minister yesterday. Appreciated that faith leaders are part of the conversation. And to hear faith leaders both express the concerns of faith communities and affirm that we pray every week for our leaders.

Larry Kochendorfer *@abtbishoplarry* Wear it, Share it. The Synod of Alberta & the Territories, ELCIC, has donated to the LWF Rapid Response Fund, which supports member churches responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

WORSHIP FOR MESSIAH LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

OPENING

Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for gathering us together in your church to discern the work you call us to do. While this last year has been hard in many different ways, we know that you are with us at all times and in all placed. Help us to know and trust your deep love and care. We ask that you help guide us today as we do your work. May we seek to be generous, compassionate, loving people of God. Keep us mindful of the many other needs in the world – conflicts, refugees, poverty, and all other concerns that we name before you. All this we pray in your name. Amen.

Reading – 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Hymn *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us ELW* #358

Litany

Leader: Your love has called us here. We acknowledge our anxiety. May we have the courage to pursue experimentation and innovation, and in all things practice a ministry of accompaniment.
All: Be with us, God.
Leader: Your love calls us to nurture Reconciled Relationships. To challenge racism and privilege, strive for peace and a healthy relationship with the Earth, and work towards a vision of an inclusive church.
All: Be with us, God.
Leader: Your love calls us to work together with one another, to share our resources and be in good communication.
All: Be with us, God.
Leader: Your love calls us to be faithful gospel witnesses. Let us seek ways to engage and empower youth and young adults, and look for opportunities to provide leadership and development for a changing world.
All: Be with us, God. Amen.

CLOSING

Litany

Leader: Faithful God, we thank you for seeing us safely through another year.
All: We trust in your faithfulness to be with us this coming year.

Leader: Hopeful God, you continue to show us the vision of a future of justice, peace and mercy.
All: Empower us with your hope, and lead us into your ways of righteousness.

Leader: Loving God, we give you thanks for your presence with us this day.
All: Fill us with your love, so that we may embody your love in all we do this year.

Leader: In your holy name we pray
All: Amen

Hymn *Lord of All Hopefulness ELW* #765

Leader: Go in peace. Faithful, hopeful, and loving.
All: Thanks be to God.

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