



Living Our Faith



Congregational
ANNUAL REPORT

Messiah Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

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Saskatchewan Synod – 2022 Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

Dear partners in the Gospel,

Again, this year, before reporting on 2022, I would like to take a moment to review 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. 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, though remarkably independent bodies, gather themselves into synods for two reasons: 1. to accomplish things an individual congregation could not, and 2. to take care of other congregations who may need the support offered by the synod.

Saskatchewan Synod Convention, by constitution, elects a Synod council to be the governing body of the synod of congregations and elects a Bishop to serve as the synod’s lead pastor and chief executive officer.

How does the synod of congregations resource that synod leadership? Remarkably, financial giving to ensure leadership for our synod is determined freely and independently by each congregation. Each congregation contributes to the synod balancing their own resources with their strong sense of call to provide support for the synod: for congregations in need, for our national church, for our seminary.

Report on 2022

This report briefly addresses two items:

1. the benevolence received by synod leadership in 2022 from the synod of congregations
2. how synod leadership has worked with that benevolence.

Benevolence received from synod congregations in 2022

Rather than speaking directly to this, I’m inserting here a paragraph provided by our finance manager:

Congregational benevolence to Synod in 2022 was \$412,139, only 91.6% of a deficit budget and 4% behind the previous year of 2021. This means we are operating at more of a loss than budgeted. While median giving returned post-pandemic, the number of congregations sending benevolence is dropping. For 2023, we have budgeted only a partial return to pre-pandemic support, even though the full amount of 2019 benevolence, \$500,000, is needed to sustain synod operations. We anticipate an operating loss, even if benevolence increases in 2023 over 2022, to maintain services and our commitments to the national church and the seminary. We hope for a return to balanced budgets in 2024.

How Synod leadership has worked with the benevolence received from congregations in 2022

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 2.5 full time

equivalents to support the administrative and pastoral work of the Bishop in supporting our synod of 100 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 .25-time finance manager. The administrative team at the office in Saskatoon continues to develop communication channels for 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’. Through 2021, the pastoral team consisted of a full-time Bishop and two .25 time Assistants to the Bishop. With the retirement of our part time assistants in early 2022, Synod council approved the Bishop’s request for a fulltime assistant to the Bishop. Rev. Dr. Ali Tote accepted the call to serve and came on staff in May. The position is made possible through a designated fund rather than being supported by general benevolence. Since coming on staff, Pastor Ali has further extended the pastoral team’s role of providing care and direction for congregations, ministries and rostered ministers in our synod. We walk beside faith communities facing difficult questions. How do congregations access leadership when they no longer have the resources to call even a part-time minister? How will the church identify and support church leaders with a deepening shortage of rostered ministers? How do we better share the ministers we have on the roster? How do we train and engage and provide mentoring for Lay Ministry Leaders? Approaches to these questions will be appearing in 2023.

Closing words

So here we stand. It is hard to believe that almost 3 years ago the prime minister went on television to tell us, basically: ‘there is a wolf at the door—don’t leave the house!’ Since then, we have travelled a bumpy road. From shockingly closed church doors to difficult limited meetings of just a few people (meetings without singing and without communion), through the seemingly endless process of relaxing and reestablishing restrictions. It has been exhausting! As we come to this time when pandemic restrictions are largely lifted, the weariness is showing in our communities. While we learned much during the pandemic (about online worship, financing through direct debit and much more) , we lost so much momentum. But I do believe that, gradually, step by step, week by week, as we ‘do what we do’, as we follow our calling from our gracious God, we are making our way back to life. We know that God has seen the church through much more difficult times than this. And here we stand.

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 2023 placing the work of our whole 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 30, 2023

Messiah's Mission: Through the hearing and sharing of God's Word,
we, as a worshipping community, encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
In faith we reach out with Christ-like caring for the community and the world in which we live.

- 1 Call to Order and Introductory Remarks**
- 2 Opening Devotions**
- 3 Adoption of Agenda**
- 4 Approval of AGM Minutes – April 24, 2022**
 - 4.1 Business Arising**
- 5 Financial**
 - 5.1 2022 Financial Statement**
 - 5.2 2022 Internal Financial Review Report**
 - 5.3 Envelope Secretary**
 - 5.4 2023 Budget**
 - 5.5 2023 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**
 - 6.6 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**
- 9 Closing Devotions**

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting For 2021
April 24, 2022, at 11:30 AM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.
A total of 30 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.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Ray McCallum to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

4. Approval of AGM Minutes – June 6, 2021

Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Hazel Schultz to adopt the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2021 as presented. Carried.

4.1 Business Arising

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Financial

5.1 2021 Financial Statement

Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2021 Financial Statements and answered questions.

Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Lois Manchur that the 2021 Financial Statements be approved as presented. Carried.

5.2 2021 Internal Financial Review Report

Garry Reinhardt read the Report of Financial Review for the Year Ending 2021.

Motion: Moved by Elaine Serfas, seconded by Ray McCallum that the Internal Financial Review Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

5.3 Envelope Secretary

See the written report for details.

5.4 2022 Budget

Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2022 Budget.

Motion: Moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Corinne Amyotte that the Budget for 2022 be accepted as presented. Carried.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde acknowledged and thanked Garry Reinhardt, Morris Hesje, and Harvey Jacobsen 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.

5.5 2022 Internal Review Recommendation

Motion: Moved by Wayne Manchur, seconded by Randi Arnot to waive the appointment of an auditor for 2022. Carried.

Debbie Honch and Tim Leson have agreed to perform an Internal Financial Review for 2022.

Motion: Moved by Morris Hesje, seconded by Shannon Pettem that we accept Debbie Honch and Tim Leson to perform the Financial Review Report for 2022. 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 2021. In addition to thanks to Donna Deobald and Vimy Penner and others noted in the report, Merv Bender and Barry Mihilewicz were thanked for their work in setting up the camera system, and to Merv for his dedication in operating the camera and other duties in order to record the services.

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 Ray McCallum, seconded by Lois Manchur that all reports be accepted as presented. Carried.

7. Elections

7.1 Church Council

Wayne Manchur, nominating committee, brought forward five names to fill vacancies on Church Council; Bill Baerwald, Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Merv Bender, Ray McCallum, and Jeannette Tomtene.

Council members whose terms have not expired are Randi Arnot, Alfred Kristensen, and Shannon Pettem.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

Motion: Moved by Alfred Kristensen, seconded by Elaine Serfas that nominations cease. Carried.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Bill Baerwald, Merv Bender, Ray McCallum, and Jeanette Tomtene were declared elected for a three-year term, by acclamation.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde thanked council members for their contributions during 2021. As well, outgoing member, Jean Meyers, was thanked for her contributions during her terms.

7.2 Nominating Committee

Wayne Manchur volunteered to remain on the Nominating Committee. Members of Council whose terms have not expired may be appointed to the Committee.

Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Randi Arnot that we accept Wayne Manchur for the Nominating Committee for 2023. Carried.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde thanked Wayne for his work recruiting members for Council.

8. New Business

a. Treaty Land Acknowledgement

A draft Treaty Land Acknowledgement document was presented for information. Discussion will take place at a later date; likely in the Fall.

9. Closing Devotions – Pastor Fran

Pastor Fran led the closing devotion.

10. Adjournment

Thanks was expressed to Donna Deobald following her retirement last June, and to Jean Meyers for her work on Council. Cheryl was also acknowledged and thanked for all of her work with the Church. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Report of the Internal Financial Reviewers for the Year Ending 2022

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

The financial statements of the 2022 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 2022 year.

Dated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, this 25th day of April, 2023

Original signed by Debbie Honch

Original signed by Tim Leson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2022

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current assets		
Bank	\$114,611	\$102,125
Petty cash	50	50
GST and accounts receivable	247	192
Term deposit	2,539	2,528
Conexus membership share	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	\$117,452	\$104,900
	=====	=====
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current liabilities		
Key deposits	\$390	\$360
Accounts payable	<u>2,892</u>	<u>3,327</u>
	3,282	3,678
Term loan due on demand (note 4)	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
	\$43,282	\$43,687
	=====	=====
 <u>EQUITY</u>		
Equity	<u>74,170</u>	<u>61,213</u>
	\$117,452	\$104,900
	=====	=====

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED Original Signed: Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Chairperson

Original Signed: Merv Bender
Vice-Chairperson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenue			
Offerings	\$160,000	\$144,131	\$139,281
Offerings – loose	3,000	1,392	692
Missions	4,700	4,205	4,760
Other Income (note 5)	<u>4,500</u>	<u>2,791</u>	<u>2,949</u>
Total revenue	<u>172,200</u>	<u>152,519</u>	<u>147,682</u>
Expenditures			
Missions			
ELCIC	2,400	2,120	2,340
Lutheran World Relief	2,200	1,985	2,420
SK Synod special contribution	8,500	5,000	8,500
Other	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>13,200</u>	<u>9,205</u>	<u>13,260</u>
Ministries			
Education:			
Confirmation supplies	400	25	394
Parish education – general	500	1,010	2,407
Parish education – Sunday School	500	0	32
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	0
Stewardship program	<u>100</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,035</u>	<u>2,833</u>
Youth:			
Campership	500	0	0
Program costs	<u>500</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>0</u>
Music and share faith renewal	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Actual</u>
Ministries (continued)			
Worship:			
Sanctuary supplies	100	1,143	76
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	1,500
Sunday service broadcasting	1,600	289	155
Sundry	<u>500</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>480</u>
	<u>3,700</u>	<u>3,294</u>	<u>2,211</u>
Conferences and conventions:			
Pastor's\lay leadership conferences	500	0	225
National / Synodical convention	<u>1,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>956</u>
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,181</u>
Building			
Insurance	8,000	9,317	7,940
Repairs and maintenance	2,500	4,253	1,856
Janitorial	4,500	3,075	0
Supplies – janitorial	500	55	497
Utilities - power	3,000	3,316	2,742
- energy	4,000	4,658	3,612
- water	1,000	1,044	715
Snow removal	1,500	4,208	691
Spruce Home cemetery	<u>400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>400</u>
	<u>25,400</u>	<u>29,926</u>	<u>18,453</u>
Office			
Advertising/website	100	0	0
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	242	169
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	960	1,178
Photocopies maintenance agreement	1,100	926	1,086
Postage	400	97	283
Parish visitation honourarium	100	0	0
Transportation subsidy	200	127	52
Christmas supplies and other	1,000	(398)	(65)
Telephone	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,693</u>	<u>3,942</u>
	<u>8,100</u>	<u>5,647</u>	<u>6,645</u>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Actual</u>
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	70,426	45,991	69,045
Pastor's mileage	1,000	816	600
Pastor's interview expense	0	111	0
Supply Pastor's and additional staff	1,000	2,878	0
Administrative assistant	20,994	21,807	25,700
Janitorial salary	0	0	5,163
Organists	1,500	941	961
Treasurer honorarium	1,200	1,200	1,200
Employee benefits-CPP\EI	6,304	4,373	6,414
ELCIC pension	7,314	4,562	7,574
ELCIC Benefits	3,135	1,917	3,007
Health and dental	4,188	5,235	2,392
WCB	300	200	306
Continuing education	600	300	600
Book allowance	<u>150</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>118,111</u>	<u>90,406</u>	<u>123,112</u>
Total expenditures	<u>173,311</u>	<u>139,562</u>	<u>167,695</u>
Net income(loss) from operations before other items	<u>(1,111)</u>	<u>12,957</u>	<u>(20,013)</u>
Other items			
CEBA loan forgivable (note 6)	0	0	10,000
CEWS subsidy (note 6)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,680</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>33,680</u>
Net income (loss)	(1,111)	12,957	13,667
Equity, beginning of year	<u>61,213</u>	<u>61,213</u>	<u>47,546</u>
Equity, end of year	<u>\$ 61,102</u>	<u>\$ 74,170</u>	<u>\$ 61,213</u>

(See accompanying notes)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	\$12,957	\$ 13,667
Change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST and accounts receivable	(55)	18,843
Key deposits	30	20
Term loan	0	10,000
Term deposit	(11)	(28)
Accounts payable	<u>(435)</u>	<u>388</u>
Increase in cash from operations	12,486	42,890
Cash, beginning of year	<u>102,175</u>	<u>59,285</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$114,661</u>	<u>\$102,175</u>
	=====	=====

(See accompanying notes)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
CAPITAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current Assets		
Bank-operating - unrestricted funds	\$ 2,681	\$ 1,753
- reserves	26,951	33,936
Conexus- redeemable member equity	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	29,639	35,696
Bank-designated funds	15,574	16,574
GST receivable	<u>235</u>	<u>271</u>
	45,448	52,541
	<u>538,142</u>	<u>576,710</u>
 Capital assets (note 2)	 \$583,590	 \$629,251
	=====	=====
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current liabilities		
Capital reserves	\$ 26,951	33,936
Designated funds:		
- Youth group	4,685	4,685
- MLW	2,263	2,327
- Men's breakfast group	504	942
- Caring Ministry	<u>8,122</u>	<u>8,620</u>
	<u>42,525</u>	<u>50,510</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Equity	<u>541,065</u>	<u>578,741</u>
	\$583,590	\$629,251
	=====	=====

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED Original Signed: Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Chairperson

Original Signed: Merv Bender
Vice-Chairperson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
CAPITAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>Actual</u>
Cash inflow			
Offerings - Regular	\$3,000	\$1,910	\$3,675
- Gifts & memorials	500	715	2,200
Interest earned and other revenue	100	222	43
Transferred from (to) reserves	10,000	7,700	6,800
Transferred from(to) designated funds	<u>(500)</u>	<u>(715)</u>	<u>(2,525)</u>
Total cash inflow	<u>13,100</u>	<u>9,832</u>	<u>10,193</u>
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases-building	6,500	0	6,229
- furniture and equipment	2,500	3,643	3,572
Capital lease-telephones	2,000	1,343	1,935
Bank charges	0	0	338
Major repairs	<u>1,500</u>	<u>3,954</u>	<u>1,076</u>
Total cash outflow	<u>12,500</u>	<u>8,940</u>	<u>13,150</u>
Net cash inflow(outflow) from operations	<u>600</u>	892	(2,957)
Amortization		(42,211)	(42,073)
Non operating expenditures-capital purchases		<u>3,643</u>	<u>9,801</u>
Net income (loss)		(37,676)	(35,229)
Equity, beginning of year		<u>578,741</u>	<u>613,970</u>
Equity, end of year		<u>\$ 541,065</u>	<u>\$ 578,741</u>

(See accompanying notes)

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
CAPITAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Unrestricted operating cash		
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	\$(37,676)	\$(35,229)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	<u>42,211</u>	<u>42,073</u>
	4,535	6,844
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST receivable	<u>36</u>	<u>456</u>
	4,471	7,300
Cash provided by (used for) investment activities:		
Purchase of capital asset	<u>(3,643)</u>	<u>(9,801)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	928	(2,501)
Unrestricted operating cash, beginning of year	<u>1,753</u>	<u>4,254</u>
Unrestricted operating cash, end of year	<u>\$ 2,681</u>	<u>\$ 1,753</u>
Designated, deferred and trust funds cash		
Cash provided by (used for) funds:		
Capital reserves	(6,985)	(4,275)
Designated funds	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>3,810</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(7,985)	(456)
Cash, beginning of year	<u>50,510</u>	<u>50,975</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 42,525</u>	<u>\$ 50,510</u>

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

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

	2022		2021	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	\$ 167,586	\$ 0	\$167,586	\$167,586
Building	1,020,159	676,221	343,938	374,525
Furnishings & Equipment	242,287	215,669	26,618	34,600
Parking lot	3,980	3,980	0	0
Shed	2,368	2,368	0	0
	\$1,436,380	\$898,238	\$538,142	\$576,710

3. BANK INDEBTNESS

At December 31, 2022, Messiah had a line of credit totaling \$30,000 (2020 - \$30,000), with interest at prime plus 9.45%, 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, 2023, with no required principal repayments. Commencing January 2024, 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, 2026, with \$20,000 forgivable if the full principal balance is repaid by December 31, 2023.

	2022	2021
Term loan due on Demand	\$60,000	\$60,000
Forgivable portion of Canada Emergency Benefit Account term loan	(20,000)	(20,000)
	\$40,000	\$ 40,000

5. **OTHER INCOME**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Other income includes the following:		
Operating fund		
Fund-raising revenue	\$ 0	\$1,566
Premises usage	2,560	1,250
Miscellaneous	231	133
	<u>\$ 2,791</u>	<u>\$ 2,949</u>

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, 2022, is \$40,000, and is recorded as a current liability.

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.

**Envelope Secretary Report
For the year ending 31 December 2022**

This year we issued 119 tax receipts for a total of \$155,719. Last year, donations totaled \$151,296, an increase of \$4423. Loose offerings totaled \$1,508.

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 slightly up this year. The number of donors is similar. The pandemic had been at least partly responsible for decreases in earlier years. The return to more normalcy in terms of fellowship, including pre service coffee time and potlucks has likely contributed to a levelling off and perhaps a modest increase in both attendance and donations. Thankfully, I continue to notice 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 2022	% of Donations 2022	% of Donors 2021	% of Donations 2021
Over \$5000	6%	29.6%	6.7%	29%
Over \$3000	12.5%	51.4%	14.3%	51.3%
Over \$2000	20%	66.2%	19.3%	61%
Over \$1000	37%	85.2%	45%	86.7%
Under \$1000	63%	63%	55%	13.4%

At our annual meeting two years ago, 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 was both expensive and wasteful. Many donors have chosen to give by way of E-transfers or by automated debits and continue to do so, 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.

**Harvey Jacobsen
Envelope Secretary**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 OPERATING BUDGET**

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Revenue			
Offerings	\$160,000	\$144,131	\$160,000
Offerings - loose	3,000	1,392	2,000
Missions	4,700	4,205	4,100
Fund raising	2,000	0	2,000
Premises usage	2,000	2,560	2,500
Other revenue	500	231	300
Total Revenue	172,200	152,519	170,900
Expenditures			
Missions			
Sask. Synod\ELCIC	2,400	2,120	2,000
CLWR	2,200	1,985	2,000
Sask Synod Benevolence	8,500	5,000	5,000
Other	100	100	100
	13,200	10,700	9,100
Ministries			
Education			
Confirmation supplies	400	25	400
Education – general & adult	500	1,010	1,000
Education – Sunday School	500	0	500
Stewardship program	100	0	100
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	500
	2,000	1,035	2,500
Youth			
Campership	500	0	500
Youth conference	0	0	1,000
Program costs	500	49	500
	1,000	0	2,000
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	300

Expenditures (continued)	2022	2022	2023
Ministries (continued)	Budget	Actual	Budget
Worship			
Sanctuary supplies	100	1,143	100
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	1,500
Service Broadcasting / Licenses	1,600	289	1,600
Sundry	500	362	500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,700	3,294	3,700
Conferences and conventions			
Pastors\Lay leadership conferences	500	0	500
Synod / National Convention levy	1,000	0	750
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,500	0	1,250
Building			
Insurance	8,000	9,317	9,500
Repairs and Maintenance	2,500	4,253	2,500
Janitorial	4,500	3,075	6,000
Supplies – janitorial	500	55	500
Utilities – power	3,000	3,316	3,500
- gas	4,000	4,658	5,000
- water	1,000	1,044	1,000
Snow removal	1,500	4,208	1,500
Spruce Home cemetery	400	0	400
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,400	29,926	29,900
Office			
Website	100	0	100
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	242	220
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	960	1,000
Photocopy maintenance agreement	1,100	926	1,000
Postage	400	97	400
Parish visitation honourarium	200	0	0
Transportation subsidy	200	127	200
Christmas supplies and other	1,000	(398)	500
Telephone	4,000	3,693	4,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8,100	5,647	8,020

Expenditures (continued)	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	70,426	45,991	65,150
Pastor's mileage	1,000	817	1,000
Pastor's interview expense	0	111	2,000
Supply Pastors/additional staff/mileage	1,000	2,878	3,700
Administrative Assistant	20,994	21,807	24,690
Organists	1,500	941	1,000
Treasurer honourarium	1,200	1,200	1,200
Employee Benefits – CPP / EI	6,304	4,373	6,132
- ELCIC pension	7,314	4,562	6,031
- ELCIC benefits	3,135	1,917	2,638
- Health and dental	4,188	5,235	8,736
- WCB	300	200	200
- Continuing education	600	300	400
- Book Allowance	150	75	100
	118,111	90,406	122,977
Total Expenditures	173,311	139,562	179,747
Net income (loss)	(1,111)	12,957	(8,847)
Equity, beginning of year	61,213	61,213	74,170
Equity, end of year	60,102	74,170	65,323

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 CAPITAL BUDGET

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Cash inflow			
Offerings – regular	3,000	32,574	3,000
Gifts and memorial	500	4,136	500
Interest earned and other revenue	100	84	100
Transferred from reserves	10,000	25,390	10,000
Transferred (to) reserves	(500)	(33,481)	(500)
Total cash inflow	13,100	28,703	13,100
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases - furniture and equipment	2,500	6,225	2,000
Capital purchases – building	6,500	25,682	5,000
Capital lease – telephones	2,000	1,935	2,000
Major repairs – other	1,500	1,235	1,500
Bank charges	0	1,196	0
Total cash outflow	12,500	33,781	10,500
Net cash (outflow) from operations	600	(7,470)	2,600
Amortization	(40,000)	(42,211)	(42,000)
Non operating expenditures – capital assets	10,000	3,643	2,500
Net income (loss)	(31,156)	(37,676)	(39,900)
Equity, beginning of year	613,970	578,741	541,065
Equity, end of year	582,815	541,065	501,165

Messiah Council

Messiah Council's Report
For the Year ending December 31, 2022

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

There are times when all seems dark,
but the light of Jesus Christ shows us the way forward
in community and fellowship.

At the end of June, Pastor Fran Schmidt accepted a call to an Anglican congregation in Saskatoon. We give thanks for her ministry during her time at Messiah. Pastor Dan Haugen accepted a call to interim ministry in September until April 2023, and we were blessed with his ministry and care for the congregation. At the time of writing, the congregation has issued a call to ministry and we pray while waiting for a response.

Prior to her departure, Pastor Fran provided by monthly services at Good Shepherd and Points West residences. Most recently, Pastor Dennis with musical accompaniment by Elaine Serfas has provided these services, and when Covid restrictions were not in place, Deacon Eldon Danielson provides services at Mont St. Joseph Home. These services which include Holy Communion, are greatly appreciated by the residents of these facilities, and we thank Pastor Dennis and Deacon Eldon for their faithful ministry.

We continue to 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.

In addition to in-person services, Messiah continues to provide online access. During 2022, we resumed Sunday morning coffee, potlucks and other gatherings as outlined further in the report. With the assistance of Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, we will gather 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 Administrative Assistant Lisa Haight; Council members Randi Arnot; Bill Baerwald, Merv Bender, Randi Arnot, Ray McCallum, Jeannette Tomtene, and members that resigned during the year Alfred Kristensen and Shannon Pettem; Financial team Garry Reinhardt, Morris Hesje, Harvey Jacobsen; our weekly musicians Colleen Bowen, Elaine Serfas, Susan Slind, and all the ministry teams and committees.

So let us go forward in light ...

Cheryl Bauer Hyde

On behalf of Messiah Council

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

PASTORAL ACTS:

Confirmation (3):

Hufnagel, Gillian

Lamontagne, Dustin

Waldner, Nevaeh

Marriages (4):

Trevor John Brownlee & Caitlin Renae Horner (Pastor Iris Kristjansdottir)

Jenna Kathleen Bratvold & Arne Matthias Jureczek (Pastor Iris Kristjansdottir)

Jory Daryll Meyer & Shania Danielle Sonen (Pastor Fran Schmidt)

Geoffry Lloyd Powell & Kendra Lynne Schulz (Pastor Fran Schmidt)

Baptisms (12):

Melia Deckmann (January 9)

Bradley Hudson Tomtene (April 23)

Renae Addyson Brownlee (June 11)

Emma Laine Grosskleg (August 14)

Oliver John Mayer (August 14)

Georgia Grace Nagy (August 14)

Constance Avery Soloski (April 10)

Marie Phoebe Lynn Harris (May 28)

Oakley Walter Kristiansen (August 14)

North David Deobald Montgomery (August 14)

Remi Alli Nagy (August 14)

Ivar Oscar James Harwood (October 29)

Deaths (13):

Doreen Woodley (January 14)

Edith Selma Akers (January 5)

Dwayne Alexander Rhead (April 10)

Myrtle Sophie Swenson (May 14)

Kenneth Donald Blocka (June 19)

James Gregry Carlson (September 22)

Barry Elroy Berge (November 28)

Donna Margaret Meyers (January 29)

Carolyn Elizabeth Johnson (April 6)

Neils Henry Thomsen (August 31)

Esther Sherwood (April 18)

Einar Helge Rinholm (September 8)

Gladys Irene Faber (September 29)

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY:

Transfers In (7):

Greg Podjan

Lisa Haight

Shania Sonen

David Bragg

Jory Meyer

Lorne & Sandra Christopherson

Transfers Out (2):

Lisa Rascher

Rick Johnson

Baptized Membership 577

Confirmed Membership 377

Household Membership 192

Non-Membership Households 14

Average Worship Attendance:

- In Person - 38

- Online - 31

Worship Ministry Team

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 occasion. Paraments and banners are changed as necessary throughout the year.

Submitted by:
Audrey Johnson and Jean Meyers

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. Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth activities took place during the first half of 2022. These areas of ministry did not take place in the second half of the year, and we pray that these ministries will resume in fall 2023.

Submitted by:
Merv Bender

Caring Ministry and Community Service Ministry Team

The Caring Ministry and Community Services (CMCS) team participated in the **Salvation Army Kettle** drive, assembled **Christmas Hampers** for six families in the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, and collected and donated food for the **Prince Albert Food Bank**.

The Salvation Army is very thankful for our on-going participation in the kettle drive and the Saskatchewan Rivers schools, PACI and Princess Margaret schools, expressed appreciation for the food hampers. Ten boxes of donated food and other items were donated to the Prince Albert Food Bank and used to fill the food hampers.

Thank you to all who volunteered to manage the Salvation Army Kettle and all who donated food and other items and made monetary donations on Foodbank Sunday and throughout the year.

Easter cards were mailed to 92 members of our Messiah family. Thank you for a generous donation of stamps to mail these cards and for the donations of Easter cards. And thank you to the people who helped prepare the cards.

Involvement in the Stephen Ministries program resumed in September, and more information will be provided with the possibility of a Commissioning Service in May 2023. The Connecting Our Hearts and Communities project did not progress in 2022, but we hope to re-engage the congregation in 2023.

A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Submitted by:

Randi Arnot, Jean Meyers and the CMCS Ministry Team: Angeline Hesje, Debbie Honch, Linda Moriarty, Rose Statz, Council Liaison Bill Baerwald

Property Management Ministry Team – 2022

The Property Management Ministry Team is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building, ground and three cemeteries. This year our team was comprised of Wilf Litzenberger and Wayne Hyde. Thank You to Wilf for his many years of service to Messiah and best wishes as he prepares for a move to Saskatoon.

During the past year, the recurring theme at Messiah was water. The flat roof areas of the building developed several leaks in the Fellowship Hall and Peace Chapel. The spray company, at no charge to us, reapplied the spray coating over the Peace Chapel and no further leaks have been seen. In late September the main water line beneath the flooring developed a leak of unknown origin. The city line was shut down immediately upon this discovery and cleanup and repairs were conducted by First General Services. Water service to the church was restored by Thorpe Brothers by inserting a smaller line within the old supply line. At this time, we are still dealing with our insurance company regarding what portion, if any, of our costs will be covered.

Last summer, most of the outside window frames were resealed and painted. This may provide us with another year or two of life as several the frames are very rotten and the pane seals are blown. The grass cutting and snow shoveling continues to be very capably handled by SHARE. A huge thank you to Dennis Serfas who looked after the watering and to Elaine Serfas for completely redoing the front flower beds. The Saint Peter's Birch Hills cemetery was toured and thank you to Gordon and Helen Fosston for their care of this cemetery for many years.

The Peace Chapel and a good part of the Sanctuary had their carpets cleaned in the fall. A new janitorial contract is being put into place, with full cleaning services resuming in April.

Projects proposed for 2023:

- Fill the excavation area outside of the building and reinstall some of the underground sprinkler system.
- Continue to monitor windows, caulking and painting those not done in 2022.
- Investigate the water leak associated with the long front shingled slope.
- Installation of three emergency exit light fixtures as identified as a requirement identified during the annual fire department inspections.
- Investigate an alternative insurance provider.

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. This is only possible if congregational members volunteer to work on projects as they are identified. If anyone would like to or can assist in any way, please contact Wayne at 306-960-1074.

Submitted on behalf of the Property Management Ministry Team
Wayne Hyde

Messiah Lutheran Women

Due to Covid and water line break, the women of Messiah were inactive for most of 2022. We met in November for breakfast/brunch at Smitty's Restaurant with discussion about future events of interest. There was a Christmas gathering in December, and the 'Mitten Tree' boxes were provided for collection of mitts, toques, and scarves. The donated items were taken to the Prince Albert Food Bank for distribution to those in need.

Submitted by
Corrine Amyotte

Men's Breakfast Group

The Messiah men's group was active over the past year. We have attendance of 8 – 10 men at our breakfast meetings and we meet in the fellowship hall in most cases. This year in November we were graciously hosted for our meeting at Gordon Dixon's house. Thanks Gordon, for your hospitality!

We meet monthly, other than the summer months, usually the last Saturday of the month, meeting 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 hosted a men's retreat in April of 2022. We have a retreat planned for October of 2023.

Our financial information is included in the congregational financial report.

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



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

January 2023

GREETINGS FROM CLWR!

In a warming world that faces conflict, disaster, and disease, you have provided real, tangible hope through your generosity and support. Your congregation's partnership with communities around the world through CLWR is such an inspiration!

Karin Achtelstetter, Executive Director

On behalf of everyone at CLWR, our partners around the world, and the thousands of lives who were changed with your support over the past year — **thank you!**

Your kindness provided emergency food and shelter for people displaced by conflict or disaster. With your support, communities were connected with sustainable sources of clean water and together we improved food security and built resilience to climate change. And with the help of so many of your congregations, we were able to help refugees resettle and find new homes in Canada.

Your partnership in mission over the next year, will be critical in allowing CLWR to continue our work and mission to create a healthy and sustainable world – for everyone! We are grateful for all acts of support, no matter how big or small!

Whether your congregation is still online, back to in-person or a hybrid model, we're thankful for the ways you've included CLWR in the life of your church, and we're eager to deepen our partnership in mission.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and partnership in 2022 and we look forward to continuing to work together in 2023!

Heidi Van Schaik

Church Relations Manager
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

LIVING OUR FAITH

Another year of pandemic saw the church continue to adapt to the evolving world of technology. With online streaming platforms serving congregations for the better part of two years, hybrid-styled worship services, meetings and conventions have quickly become the norm, seeing what will likely be an ongoing shift in participation to both virtual and in-person attendance.

Much like that of last year, 2022 provided similar challenges as the world continued to overcome various hurdles related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With worship and larger-scale events remaining online in 2021 for the majority of congregations across the ELCIC, 2022 saw the return of safe, in-person gatherings.

Bible camps, fundraisers, board meetings and Sunday worship services began to work their way back into the fold.

Technology such as Zoom, YouTube and Box has allowed us to remain a tight-knit community. Bishops have been able to meet more regularly, while Anglican and Lutheran staff have consistently tuned in, working closely on shared areas of work. National and Synod treasurers have met monthly, helping sift through the available government support. We have been able to remain working closely with our partners.

Amid the many questions, we have found ways to continue gathering together as a church *In Mission for Others*.

The 2022 ELCIC National Convention: online edition

The National Convention of the ELCIC met online, July 15–16, 2022 during three, three-hour sessions under the theme *Let There Be Greening*. “This is our first-ever online convention. This



National Bishop Susan Johnson delivers an apology to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

year we will only be doing the necessary business that we are legally required to do,” National Bishop Susan Johnson wrote in her greeting in the *Bulletin of Reports*.

National Church Council reported that it had approved a new ELCIC vision statement: “God’s grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships.” Further work will be done to communicate this broadly and develop this statement into a new

tagline, replacing the current *In Mission for Others* tagline.

In her address, Bishop Johnson acknowledged the harms that members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community have experienced in the church. “Today I apologize to the members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community for the ways that we have not lived up to our commitments and to the ways we have treated you in the past and even now,” she said.

Bishop Johnson acknowledged the times members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community did not receive welcome, had been denied sacraments, vocation, marriage rights, and when proper gender identity had not been affirmed. She made it clear that the entire church had much work to do in the areas of acceptance and affirmation.

In the near future, the special 2023 convention in Calgary, AB, will see the reports and recommendations of The Task Force on Addressing Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, The Task Force on Addressing Ableism, and The Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy, and issues of Racial Injustice.

Fun in the sun at Bible camp in Standard, AB

For 22 children in Standard, A B., the hopes of attending summer Bible camp became a reality. Through some hard work, fundraising, and the “campership” program, the congregation of Nazareth was able to see each of the 22 children that applied for camp live out their hopes, whether they were members of Nazareth or not.

The program saw the congregation and camp hopefuls raise funds—primarily through a bike-a-thon in June—which in turn paid the way for children in Standard who wanted to attend the summer Bible camp. The children who were given camperships were asked to help raise funds through the bike-a-thon.

Rev. Kate Zaiser, who was fortunate enough to be the camp chaplain for one of the weeks the Standard kids went to camp, said it was amazing how “normal” the whole week was.

“Everyone was rapid-tested upon arrival, and then they ran the camp as usual,” Zaiser said. “For one activity, we all stood in a circle holding hands, and I couldn’t help marveling at how surprising and wonderful it felt to be in contact with other people again. And even more importantly, the kids all had a blast, and a return to what childhood is supposed to be like.”



The campers who participated in Nazareth’s bike-a-thon.

Lutheran-Anglican full communion partnership on display through the youth

With a waning youth membership at one Coquitlam, B.C. Anglican congregation came the support of the local Lutheran church, located just down the street. The combination of the two youth groups was both a logical and necessary step. St. Laurence Anglican Church had staff but few teenagers, while Good Shepherd Lutheran had teenagers but no leaders. Just before the pandemic hit, the two congregations decided to merge youth ministry under the name ignYte.

"This really did feel like it emerged very organically and the spirit was in it," said Jason Wood, minister of youth and families at St. Laurence. "We had a need, and they had a need and because of that similarity and because of our context, it was a natural fit."

Formalized with the 2001 Waterloo Declaration, the relationship between the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada has resulted in many levels of co-operation and collaboration between the two denominations, much like that of the partnership between Good Shepherd and St. Laurence. Now 20 years into the partnership, congregations and denominational leaders continue to discover new ways to work together, pursuing common goals.



Anglican and Lutheran youth carve pumpkins together during an ignYte event at Halloween.

The Urban continues the work outside its doors

Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. (the Urban) is a partner ministry of the Manitoban/Northwestern Ontario Synod. And over the past two years, it has shifted its practice from inviting locals to friendly visits/sharing circles over coffee and lunches in the narthex of Lutheran Church of the Cross to a new socially-distanced delivery method.

The Urban's bagged meal program has resulted in approximately 1,000 bagged meals per month, four times a week distributed outside the door since mid-March 2020. The overwhelming enthusiasm, love and support from the Urban's meal teams indicate the success of the program far after the pandemic's end.

The Urban is a ministry standing with Winnipeg's urban community to support physical, mental and spiritual needs. Its sharing circles, worship services and a planned drop-in for women (with children too) feed the greatest hunger, even more than the food for the body.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Urban continues to thrive thanks in large part to its volunteers, donors and leaders, who have made what could have been a disappointing closure into another COVID success story.



Sharing circle attendees who live at Winnipeg's Arms of the Cross Housing Inc.

Lutheran youth aim to tackle climate change head-on

It is no secret that the climate crisis has become a major worldly concern over the past number of years.

With a heightened awareness of climate change—stemming from major hurricanes, extreme heat domes, droughts and major floods—leaders from across the ELCIC have found ways to lessen their carbon footprint, while other have been able to help raise awareness of the ongoing battle.

In expressing their concerns, the ELCIC's national and synodical bishops called the Canadian government to action on reducing greenhouse emissions, while mitigating the dire impacts of climate change. "As Christians, we are called to care for the whole of creation and to be responsible to our neighbours and communities," National Bishop Susan Johnson wrote in her letter.

One young Eastern Synod member living out Bishop Johnson's call to care for creation is circumpolar climate scientist Katarina Kuhnert, who has spent the past year working north of the Arctic Circle focusing on ecosystem changes in the region.

"Climate change is an intersectional and an inter-generational issue, and we need to respond in a diversity of ways across generations," Kuhnert says. "This affects everyone from youth and children to adults, elders and leaders in the church. The potential for challenges of the current climate crisis impacts so many elements in our lives. When we hold the burdens of challenge and change together they become a little bit lighter."



Climate scientist and ELCIC member Katarina Kuhnert.

WORSHIP FOR MESSIAH LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

OPENING THE MEETING

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

You are encouraged to acknowledge Indigenous lands in a way appropriate to your context. These words are provided as an example:

We acknowledge that the territories, on which we live are the traditional ancestral lands of the Indigenous Peoples, and is the common home to everyone in virtue of God, our Creator's, gracious gift and by the welcome of the Indigenous Peoples of these lands.

PRAYER

God of grace and hope, align our hearts, minds, and hands for the work of loving your world. Make your Spirit known in this gathering, to support our conversation and to guide our work in the ways of Jesus. Amen.

READING Revelation 22:1-2

HYMN *Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil*
EvLW #512

CLOSING THE MEETING

LITANY

Leader: God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community.

All: We celebrate all and uphold life giving relationships.

Leader: Help us to see the river of life and the tree of life.

All: Help us to share the fruit of abundance and the leaves that heal the nations.

LITANY

Leader: We thank you for creation and how it sustains life for all. Help our relationships with land and water to deepen and grow.

All: Let there be greening.

Leader: We thank you for humanity, in all its diversity, and how all people offer gifts for being true community. Help our relationships with neighbours, near and far, to deepen and grow.

All: Let there be greening.

Leader: We thank you for the Body of Christ around the world, and how it bears witness to your ways of justice, healing, and peace. Help our relationships with partners to deepen and grow.

All: Let there be greening.

Leader: We thank you for this faith community, and how we support each other on our spiritual journeys. Help our relationships with each other to deepen and grow.

All: Let there be greening. Amen.

Leader: We thank you for this faith community, and how we support each other on our spiritual journeys. Help our relationships with each other to deepen and grow.

All: Let there be greening.

HYMN *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*
EvLW #574

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the LORD!

All: Thanks be to God.