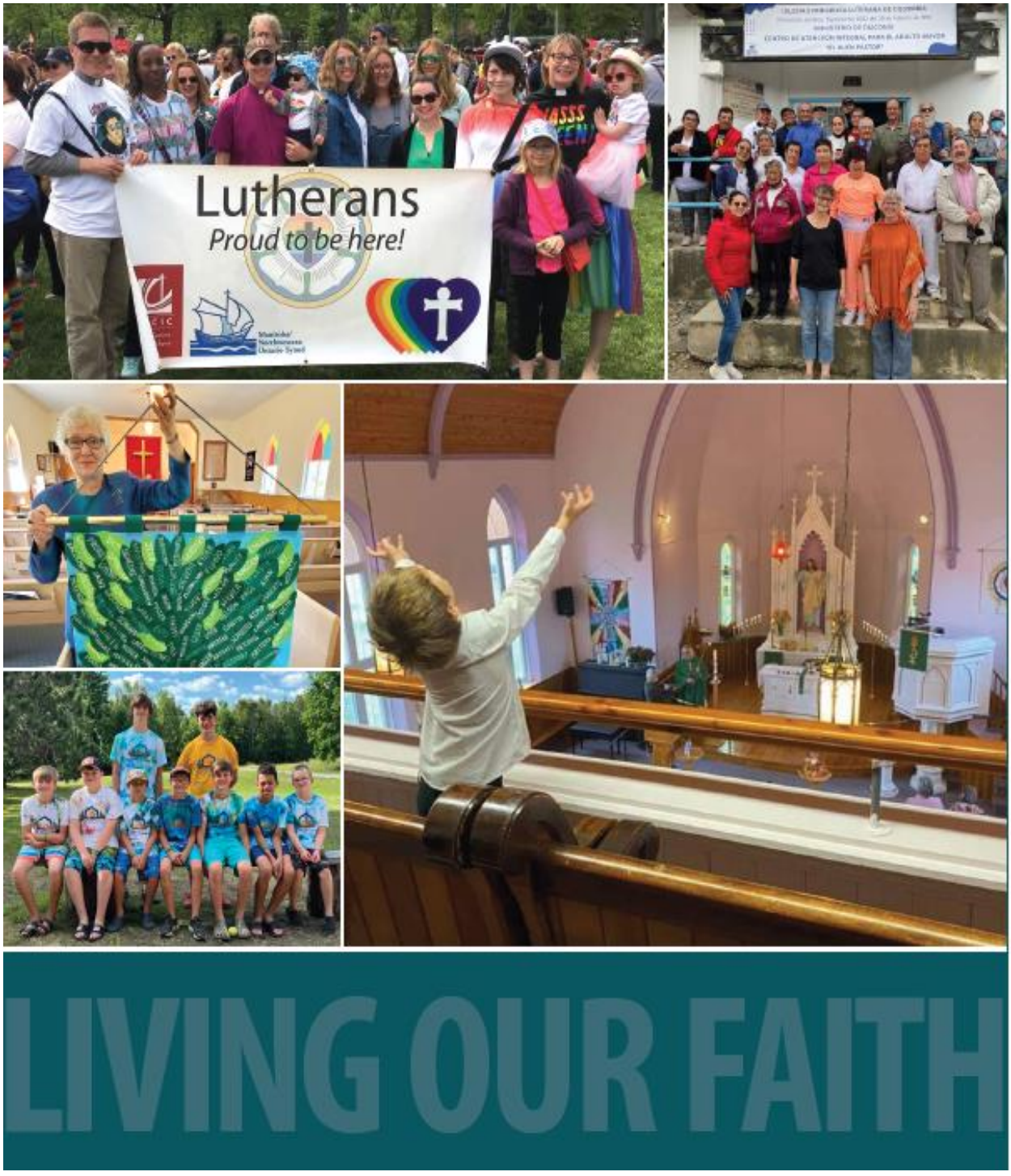
Messiah Lutheran Church
2023 Annual Report



LET'S NOT BE AFRAID

These are the words National Bishop Susan Johnson spoke to delegates at Assembly 2023—a joint gathering of Lutheran and Anglicans this past summer. She encouraged those in attendance, "Let's continue to grow, whether that's in depth or in numbers. Let's just strive to be as faithful as we can for our loving God."

How are you and your congregation living into this? As you meet in your Annual General Meeting, you are encouraged to dwell on this question.

Assembly 2023

The ELCIC and ACC met in convention for the second time under the theme *Let There be Greening*, at the University of Calgary from June 27–July 2, 2023.

The ACC General Synod met at the same time as the ELCIC's Special Convention, with several joint sessions involving both bodies for worship, fellowship, Bible study, presentations and other discussions—with other matters, such as voting and convention business, being conducted separately.

Assembly highlights include:

- ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the ACC, opened the Assembly 2023 plenary sessions with a state of the union address.
- The ELCIC Special Convention and ACC General Synod approved motions to bring the ACC, ELCIC and the Canadian churches of the Moravian Church in North America into full communion.
- Delegates approved an amended resolution calling on both churches to respond to opportunities for solidarity, advocacy and to pray for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel.
- On Canada Day, the assembly session began with an invitation to reflection from Anglican and Lutheran leaders, including National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Chris Harper.
- Throughout the 2023 ELCIC Special Convention, delegates heard from four task forces, all of which were formed out of convention action at the 2019 ELCIC National Convention.
- The Task Force Addressing Ableism, Task Force Addressing Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, Task Force Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice, and the Task Force on Carbon Neutrality each spoke, with delegates voting to approve their reports.
- Pat Lovell was presented with the 2023 ELCIC Leadership Award for her dedication, work and love given through acts of service within the ELCIC. She is the third recipient of the award. •

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the ACC, and ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson opened the Assembly 2023 plenary sessions with a state of the union address.

Sharing a campfire at Camp Lutherlyn.

Giving back to the great outdoors

The 2022 and 2023 summer seasons marked the return to camp for many families, church groups and individuals across the ELCIC. Following two years of COVID-related restrictions for the 2020 and 2021 camping seasons, faith-based Lutheran camps bounced back strongly in 2022 and 2023 with gratitude to their many financial supporters.

"Donations have certainly been up since COVID, which has really sustained us considering all we went through during the pandemic," said Paul Kopjar, assistant director of Sylvan Lake, Alberta's Camp Kuriakos. "That congregational support really has made a difference. Specifically, we receive donations from individual congregations, of both Lutheran and Anglican denomination."

Camp Lutherlyn, located just west of Ottawa, Ont., took the time off to take on some serious renovations around camp. In order to do so, Lutherlyn relied on a number of grants while running fundraisers, including a "100 X $100" to which 100 separate donors provided $100 to the camp. Synod-owned, Camp Lutherlyn leases its property from the Eastern Synod.

Over in the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, Luther Village made some significant changes during COVID.

"When we took over, the summer shop was literally falling into the lake, our beloved dining hall building was falling apart and many cabins needed to be levelled, while others needed new roofs. And during COVID, you're losing so much of your income from not running kids' camps and school groups, so you're just trying to maintain," said co-executive director Lisa van Dijk.

"We just want to ensure we are best using the money we can raise. We thoroughly appreciate our remittance funding from the MNO Synod on a monthly basis." •

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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Saskatchewan Synod 2023
Year-end letter from Bishop Sid Haugen

Dear partners in the Gospel,

Again, this year, before reporting on 2023, I would like to take a moment 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 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 2023

This report briefly addresses two items:

1. the benevolence received by synod leadership in 2023 from the synod of congregations
2. how synod leadership has worked with that benevolence.

Benevolence received from synod congregations in 2023

Rather than speaking directly to this, I'm inserting here a paragraph provided by our finance manager:-*Congregational benevolence to Synod in 2023 was $364,411 from 75 congregations, only 77% of budget and 12% behind the previous year of 2022. This means we are operating at more of a loss than budgeted. The number of congregations sending benevolence continues to drop (from 81 congregations in 2020 to 75 in 2023). In 2023, 19 congregations gave the same as in 2022; 21 gave more; and 41 gave less or none. We have balanced our 2024 budget only by reducing our support to the wider church and even that balance budget is only attainable if we receive at least $412,000 congregational support as we did in 2022.*

How Synod leadership has worked with the benevolence received from synod congregations in 2023

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). Bishop's office is constitutionally and practically the main source of support for congregations and ministries and the roster of ministers.

Synod council during 2023 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.

- 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 that work.

- The Pastoral Team supports congregations, ministries and rostered ministers 'on the road'. Rev. Dr. Ali Tote serves on staff as full-time assistant to the bishop. The position is made possible through a designated fund rather than being supported by general benevolence. The Assistant to the Bishop role greatly extends the reach of the bishop's pastoral team in providing care and direction for congregations, ministries and rostered ministers in our synod.

2024

So here we stand at the beginning of 2024.

In the congregations, I'm hearing two words. One is that the momentum we lost in the three years of the pandemic did not come back immediately. While we are seeing hopeful signs of slowly regaining momentum, none of us are exactly sure what the post-pandemic church will look like. What seems highly likely is that we will need to embrace significant changes in the shape of our church at every level: congregational, synodical and national. What does the future look like? None of us can say with certainty. But God is good. We are, as in any other time in the decades and centuries of being church, called to keep walking forward in faith that God will provide.

In the synod, of course, I have announced that I will not let my name stand for bishop at our convention this May. As you know, at the convention a blank ballot will be handed out to delegates to begin the process of nominating and electing a new bishop. What happens next will be in God's hands. How inspiring is that!

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 28, 2024

Messiah's Mission
Through the hearing and sharing of God's Word, we, as a worshiping 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 30, 2023
4.1 Business Arising

5 Financial
5.1 2023 Financial Statement
5.2 2023 Internal Financial Review Report
5.3 Envelope Secretary
5.4 2024 Budget
5.5 2024 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 2022
April 30, 2023, at 11:45 AM
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Introductory Remarks**
   Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM.
   A total of 28 members and 1 guest signed the attendance sheet; quorum was confirmed.

2. **Opening Devotions- Cheryl Bauer Hyde**
   Cheryl Bauer Hyde led the meeting in Opening Devotions.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**
   Motion: moved by Elaine Serfas, seconded by Dave Bragg, to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

4. **Approval of AGM Minutes - April 24, 2022**
   Motion: moved by a Hazel Schultz, seconded by Janice Dubray, to approve the Minutes as presented. Carried.
   4.1 Business Arising: There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. **Financial**
   5.1 2022 Financial Statement
   Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2022 Financial Statements.
   Motion: moved by Lois Manchur, seconded by Steve Tomtene, to approve the 2022 Financial Statements as presented. Carried.

   5.2 2022 Internal Financial Review Report
   Gary Reinhardt read the Report of Financial Review for the Year Ending 2022.
   Motion: moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Colleen Bowen, to accept the Internal Financial Review as presented. Carried.

   5.3 Envelope Secretary
   See the written report for details.

   5.4 2022 Budget
   Garry Reinhardt reviewed the 2022 Budget. Lisa Haight asked if the purchase of the computer for the Pastor was included. Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised if required it would be included in the Capital Budget. Dan Haugen asked about the Line of Credit, noting the interest rate is prime +9.45%. Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised that it had been in place for many years and is used infrequently. Dennis Serfas asked if the budget line for the Pastor's salary is based on the 2023 guidelines. Garry Reinhardt indicated that the budget reflects 2023 salary guidelines.
   Motion: moved by Merv Bender, seconded by Jean Meyers to approve the 2023 Budget as Presented. Carried.

   5.5 Internal Review Recommendation
   Motion: moved by Wayne Manchur, seconded by Merv Bender, to waive the appointment of an auditor for 2023. Carried.
   Cheryl Bauer Hyde thanked Garry Reinhardt, Morris Hesje, and Harvey Jacobsen for their ongoing

contributions. She noted that Morris and Angeline Hesje are moving to Saskatoon and their significant contributions over many years.

6. **Reports:** Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised that the written reports had been circulated, and the ministry teams / committees would answer any questions.

6.1 Council
See the written report for details. Thanks were expressed to Pastor Dennis Serfas and Deacon Eldon Danielson for services at retirement/care homes, to Lisa Haight for her work in the Messiah office, Council, and the congregation.

6.2 Pastor
Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised that Pastor John Dut hopes to leave South Sudan this week and begin his Ministry in June. Pastor Dan Haugen was thanked for serving as our Interim Pastor following Pastor Fran's departure. The pastoral acts are listed on page 27 of the reports.

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

6.4 Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team
See the written report for details. The Stephen Ministries' Team will be commissioned on May 7.

6.5 Education Ministry Team
See the written report for details. Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised that the Sunday school and youth ministry were areas where we hope to see further development. Lisa Haight advised that she had contacted a number of families regarding the interest of youth in attending CLAY in August. At this time, there has not been any expression of interest or response.

6.6 Property Maintenance Ministry Team
See the written report for details. Suggestions from the congregation were that the sheds on the parking lot and contents be removed. They could be sold or donated to Habitat for Humanity or to SHARE.

6.7 Messiah Lutheran Women
See the written report for details. Cheryl Bauer Hyde advised the next gathering is May 6 to discuss relaxation techniques and brunch.

6.8 Men's Group
Merv Bender advised that plants have been made for a mid-October retreat at Kinasao. The group will break for summer at the end of May and reconvene in the fall.

Motion: moved by Merv Bender and seconded by Elaine surface that the reports be accepted as presented.

7. **Elections**

7.1 Church Council
Cheryl Bauer Hyde reported that Bill Baerwald had resigned, and his resignation was regretfully accepted. This leaves remaining on Council: Randi Arnot, with her term expiring 2024, and with Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Merv Bender, Ray McCallum, and Jeanette Tomtene with their terms expiring 2025. Council positions open for election are two one-year terms, a two-year term, and a three-year

term. Cheryl Bauer Hyde asked that at the first Council meeting, the new Council members could indicate their preference for length of term. There was general agreement with this approach.

Wayne Manchur, as the Nominating Committee, recommended Corrine Amyotte and Joy Weinberger.

Cheryl Bauer Hyde called for motions from the floor.
Lisa Haight nominated David Bragg who accepted the nomination.
Motion: moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Colleen Bowen, that nominations cease. Carried.

Corrine Amyotte, David Bragg, and Joy Weinberger were declared elected, by acclamation.

Outgoing members of Council, Bill Baerwald, Alfred Kristiansen, and Shannon Pettem were thanked for their service.

7.2 Nominating Committee
Wayne Manchur indicated that he was retiring from the Committee. Wayne was thanked for his exceptional service over the past years. There will be a call for people to serve on the Committee prior to the next AGM.

8. Closing Devotions
Cheryl Bauer Hyde led the closing devotion.

9. Adjournment
All people who have contributed to the operation of church were acknowledged and thanked for their contribution. There was a reminder that the next Council meeting is on May 9 at 7 PM in the Peace Chapel. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Registration: Members 28	
Amyotte, Corrine	**Arnot, Randi**
Baerwald, William	**Bauer Hyde, Cheryl**
Bender, Merv	**Bowen, Colleen**
Bragg, David	**Dubray, Janice**
Fornal, Louise	**Haight, Lisa**
Haugen, Betty	**Haugen, Bev**
Haugen, Dan	**Haugen, Ken**
Hyde, Wayne	**Jacobsen, Harvey**
Manchur, Lois	**Manchur, Wayne**
Meyers, Jean	**Moriarty, Linda**
Reinhardt, Garry	**Schultz, Hazel**
Serfas, Dennis	**Serfas, Elaine**
Tomtene, Jeannette	**Tomtene, Steven**
Wagner, Arlene	**Weinberger, Joy**
Guest: Routley, Karen	

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

The financial statements of the 2023 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 2023 year.

Dated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, this 26th day of March, 2024.

Debbie Honch
_____
Debbie Honch

Donna Deobald
_____
Donna Deobald

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Bank	$ 72,626	$114,611
Petty cash	50	50
GST and accounts receivable	185	247
Term deposit	2,615	2,539
Conexus membership share	5	5
	$ 75,481	$117,452
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Key deposits	$410	$390
Accounts payable	4,905	2,892
	5,315	3,282
Term loan due on demand (note 4)	0	40,000
	$5,315	$43,687
EQUITY		
Equity	70,166	74,170
	$ 75,481	$117,452

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED Original will be signed following approval at the AGM

Council Member

Council Member

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$145,138	$144,131
Offerings – loose	2,000	2,185	1,392
Missions	4,100	3,355	4,205
Other Income (note 5)	4,800	8,412	2,791
Total revenue	170,900	159,090	152,519
Expenditures			
Missions			
ELCIC	2,000	1,650	2,120
Lutheran World Relief	2,000	1,705	1,985
SK Synod special contribution	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other	100	0	100
	9,100	8,355	9,205
Ministries			
Education:			
Confirmation supplies	400	0	25
Parish education – general	1,000	1,555	1,010
Parish education – Sunday School	500	0	0
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	0
Stewardship program	100	0	0
	2,500	1,555	1,035
Youth:			
Campership	500	0	0
Youth conference	1,000	0	0
Program costs	500	0	0
	2,000	0	0
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	0

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Ministries (continued)			
Worship:			
Sanctuary supplies	100	427	1,143
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	1,500
Sunday service broadcasting	1,600	900	289
Sundry	500	0	362
	3,700	2,827	3,294
Conferences and conventions:			
Pastor's\lay leadership conferences	500	741	0
National / Synodical convention	750	952	0
	1,250	1,693	0
Building			
Insurance	9,500	10,675	9,317
Repairs and maintenance	2,500	4,573	4,253
Janitorial	6,000	5,883	3,075
Supplies – janitorial	500	524	55
Utilities - power	3,500	3.648	3,316
- energy	5,000	4,686	5,658
- water	1,000	960	1,044
Snow removal	1,500	1,154	4,208
Spruce Home cemetery	400	0	0
	29,900	32,103	29,926
Office			
Advertising/website	100	150	0
Bank charges, interest and fees	220	117	242
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	570	960
Photocopies maintenance agreement	1,000	331	926
Postage	400	217	97
Transportation subsidy	200	416	127
Christmas supplies and other	500	12	(398)
Telephone	4,600	3,464	3,693
	8,020	5,277	5,647

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	65,150	58,377	45,991
Pastor's mileage	1,000	1,409	817
Pastor's interview expense	2,000	0	111
Supply Pastor's and additional staff	3,700	2,208	2,878
Administrative assistant	24,690	24,724	21,807
Organists	1,000	637	941
Treasurer honorarium	1,200	750	1,200
Employee benefits-CPP\EI	6,132	5.682	4,373
ELCIC pension	6,031	5,519	4,562
ELCIC Benefits	2,638	2,418	1,917
Health and dental	8,736	9,002	5,235
WCB	200	208	200
Continuing education	400	350	300
Book allowance	100	0	75
	122,977	111,284	90,406
Total expenditures	179,747	163,094	139,562
Net income(loss) from operations	(8,847)	(4,004)	12,957
Equity, beginning of year	74,170	74,170	61,223
Equity, end of year	$ 65,323	$ 70,166	$ 74,170

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	**2022**
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$ (4,004)	$ 12,957
Change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST and accounts receivable	63	(55)
Key deposits	20	30
Term loan	(40,000)	0
Term deposit	(76)	(11)
Accounts payable	2,012	(435)
Increase in cash from operations	(41,985)	12,486
Cash, beginning of year	114,661	102,175
Cash, end of year	$ 72,676	$114,661

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
CAPITAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank-operating - unrestricted funds	$ 5,077	$ 2,681
- reserves	5,014	26,951
Conexus- redeemable member equity	7	7
	10,098	29,639
Bank-designated funds	15,558	15,574
GST receivable	0	235
	25,656	45,448
	497,021	538,142
Capital assets (note 2)	$522,677	$583,590
	=======	=======
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Capital reserves	$ 5,014	$ 26,951
Designated funds:		
- Youth group	4,685	4,685
- MLW	1,778	2,263
- Men's breakfast group	1,018	504
- Caring Ministry	8,077	8,122
	20,572	42,525
EQUITY		
Equity	502,105	541,065
	$522,677	$583,590
	=======	=======

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED Original will be signed following approval at the AGM

_____
Council Member

_____
Council Member

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
CAPITAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2022 Actual
Cash inflow			
Offerings - Regular	$3,000	$3,320	$1,910
- Gifts & memorials	500	1,275	715
Interest earned and other revenue	100	196	222
Transferred from (to) reserves	10,000	24,000	7,700
Transferred from(to) designated funds	(500)	(2,063)	(715)
Total cash inflow	13,100	26,728	9,832
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases-building	6,500	0	0
- furniture and equipment	2.500	568	3,643
Capital lease-telephones	2,000	0	1,343
Bank charges	0	0	0
Major repairs	1,500	23,999	3,954
Total cash outflow	12,500	24,567	8.940
Net cash inflow(outflow) from operations	600	2,161	892
Amortization		(41,689)	(42,211)
Non operating expenditures-capital purchases		568	3,643
Net income (loss)		(38,960)	(37,676)
Equity, beginning of year		541,065	578,741
Equity, end of year		$ 502,105	$ 541,065

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
CAPITAL FUND
***DECEMBER 31,* 2023**

	2023	**2022**
Unrestricted operating cash		
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$(38,960)	$(37,676)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	41,689	42,211
	2,729	4,535
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST receivable	235	36
	2,964	4,471
Cash provided by (used for) investment activities:		
Purchase of capital asset	(568)	(3,643)
Increase (decrease) in cash	2,396	928
Unrestricted operating cash, beginning of year	2,681	1,753
Unrestricted operating cash, end of year	$ 5,077	$ 2,681
Designated, deferred and trust funds cash		
Cash provided by (used for) funds:		
Capital reserves	(21,937)	(6,985)
Designated funds	(16)	(1,000)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(21,953)	(7,985)
Cash, beginning of year	42,525	50,510
Cash, end of year	$ 20,572	$ 42,525

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

	2023			2022
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	$ 167,586	$ 0	$167,586	$167,586
Building	1,020,159	706,807	313,353	343,938
Furnishings & Equipment	242,856	226,773	16,082	26,618
Parking lot	3,980	3,980	0	0
Shed	2,368	2,368	0	0
	$1,436,949	$939,928	$427,021	$538,142

3. BANK INDEBTNESS

On December 31, 2023, Messiah had a line of credit totaling $30,000 (2022 - $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. OTHER INCOME

	2023	2022
Other income includes the following:		
Operating fund		
Fund-raising revenue	$4,750	$0
Premises usage	3,250	2,560
Miscellaneous	412	231
	$8,412	$ 2,791

Envelope Secretary Report
For the year ending 31 December 2023

This year we issued 120 tax receipts for a total of $155,297. Last year, donations totaled $155,719 a slight decrease of $412. Loose offerings totaled $1,617, which was a slight increase.

Included is 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 quite comparable to the past two years. The number of donors is likewise similar. The pandemic had been at least partly responsible for decreases in earlier years. Thankfully, we 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.

	% Donors 2023	% Donations 2023	% Donors 2022	% Donations 2022
Over $5000	6.7%	34.9%	6%	29.6%
Over $3000	16.4%	60.5%	12.5%	51.4%
Over $2000	19.7%	67.6%	20%	66.2%
Over $1000	39.3%	88.5%	37%	85.2%
Under $1000	61.7%	11.5%	63%	14.8%

At our annual meeting three 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 donate 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. I have noticed a gradual increase in automated or E-transfer methods. 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 wish to write your name on the envelope.

Harvey Jacobsen
Envelope Secretary

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 BUDGET

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2024 OPERATING BUDGET

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$145,138	$160.000
Offerings - loose	2,000	2,185	2,000
Missions	4,100	3,355	4,100
Fund raising	2,000	4,750	2,000
Premises usage	2,500	3,250	2,500
Other revenue	300	412	300
Total Revenue	170,900	159,090	170,900
Expenditures			
Missions			
Sask. Synod\ELCIC	2,000	1,650	2,000
CLWR	2,000	1,705	2,000
Sask Synod Benevolence	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other	100	0	100
	9,100	8,355	9,100
Ministries			
Education			
Confirmation supplies	400	0	400
Education – general & adult	1,000	1,555	1,000
Education – Sunday School	500	0	100
Stewardship program	100	0	100
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	500
	2,500	1,555	2,100
Youth			
Campership	500	0	250
Youth conference	1,000	0	0
Program costs	500	0	500
	2,000	0	750
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	300

Expenditures (continued)	**2023**	**2023**	**2024**
Ministries (continued)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**
Worship			
Sanctuary supplies	100	427	100
Kinasao	1,500	1,500	100
Service Broadcasting / Licenses	1,600	900	1,600
Sundry	500	0	500
	3,700	2,827	2,300
Conferences and conventions			
Pastor - Leadership Conference	500	741	800
Synod / National Convention levy	750	952	1,500
	1,250	1,693	2,300
Building			
Insurance	8,000	10,675	9,500
Repairs and Maintenance	2,500	4,573	2,500
Janitorial	6,000	5,883	6,000
Supplies – janitorial	500	524	500
Utilities – power	3,500	3,648	3,500
- gas	5,000	4,686	5,000
- water	1,000	960	1,000
Grass/Snow removal	1,500	1,154	1,500
Spruce Home cemetery	400	0	400
	29,900	32,103	29,900
Office			
Website	100	150	100
Bank charges, interest and fees	220	117	200
Office and photocopy supplies	1,000	570	800
Photocopy maintenance agreement	1,000	331	500
Postage	400	217	300
Transportation subsidy	200	416	500
Christmas supplies and other	500	12	250
Telephone	4,600	3,464	3,500
	8,020	5,277	6,150

Expenditures (continued)	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	65,160	58,377	78,342
Pastor's mileage	1,000	1,409	1,500
Supply Pastors & Mileage	3,700	2,208	500
Administrative Assistant	24,689	24,724	25,522
Organists	1,000	637	500
Treasurer honourarium	1,200	750	4,000
Employee Benefits – CPP / EI	6,132	5,682	8,309
- ELCIC pension	6,031	5,519	6,031
- ELCIC benefits	2,638	2,418	4,674
- Health and dental	8,736	9,002	10,800
- WCB	200	208	0
- Continuing education	400	350	600
- Book Allowance	100	0	100
	122,977	111,284	140,878
Total Expenditures	179,747	163,094	193,778
Net income (loss)	(8,847)	(4,004)	(22,878)
Equity, beginning of year	74,170	74,170	70,166
Equity, end of year	65,323	70,166	47,288

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Cash inflow			
Offerings – regular	3,000	3,320	2,000
Gifts and memorial	500	1,275	500
Interest earned and other revenue	100	196	100
Transferred from reserves	10,000	24,000	0
Transferred (to) reserves	(500)	(2,063)	(500)
Total cash inflow	13,100	26,728	2,100
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases - furniture and equipment	2,500	568	2,500
Capital purchases – building	6,500	0	0
Capital lease – telephones	2,000	0	0
Major repairs – other	1,500	23,999	0
Bank charges	0	0	0
Total cash outflow	12,500	24,567	2,500
Net cash (outflow) from operations	600	2,161	(400)
Amortization	(40,000)	(41,689)	(42,000)
Non operating expenditures – capital assets	10,000	568	2,500
Net income (loss)	(31,156)	(38,960)	(39,900)
Equity, beginning of year	613,970	541,065	541,065
Equity, end of year	582,814	502,105	501,165

Messiah Council's Report
For the Year ending December 31, 2023

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

We are encouraged to replace anxiety with prayer, and thanksgiving with trust in God's provision and protection.

The report begins and ends with thanks to the Messiah family and friends. But the greatest thanks goes to God for the Church not because we are perfect, but because God is perfect; not because we are blameless, but because Christ is blameless; not because we are faithful, but because God is faithful, who has called us into fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks to Pastor Dan Haugen who provided interim ministry until April. Pastor John Mayer Dut accepted a call to ministry at Messiah in June. On July 30, we gathered for Pastor John's installation joined by Bishop Sid, Assistant to the Bishop Ali, out-of-town family and friends, and the Messiah congregation. It was a time of joy and celebration.

Pastor John provides monthly services at three senior residences with the assistance of Linda and Jean. These services, which include Holy Communion, are greatly appreciated by the residents of these facilities.

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. Your prayerful consideration of the Messiah ministry needs and, your responses of time and financial resources are greatly appreciated.

In addition to in-person services, Messiah continues with live and posted online services. Fellowship is enjoyed at coffee times (Sunday prior to the worship service and some Tuesday mornings), potlucks, Ash Wednesday supper, Easter morning breakfast, and other gatherings. With the assistance of Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Ali Tote, we reviewed our mission and talked about our vision going forward. The report has been received, and discussion will continue as we seek to know God's will and guidance.

Thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support, Pastor John and Administrative Assistant Lisa; Council members Corrine Amyotte, Randi Arnot; Merv Bender, David Bragg, Jeannette Tomtene, Joy Weinberger; Financial team Garry Reinhardt and Harvey Jacobsen; our weekly musicians Colleen Bowen, Susan Slind; supporting musicians Jack Jones, Linda Moriarty, Gord Hein, Lisa Haight; choir director May Janzen; Debbie Honch and Donna Deobald who completed Messiah's financial review; and all those who contribute through the ministry teams, committees and other ways to support the Messiah ministry.

So let us go forward in peace…

Cheryl

On behalf of Messiah Council

Pastor's Report
April 28, 2024

By Pastor John Mayer Dut

The Call of Abram:

[1]The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. [2]"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. [3]I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." [4] So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. (Genesis 12: 1-4)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN, PRINCE ALBERT

I received a letter of call from Messiah Lutheran Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Synod, on Monday April 3, 2023. Bishop Sid Haugen sent me the Letter of Call, and the next day, I responded to Bishop Sid after I talked to my family in Saskatoon, accepting the call to MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH as Parish Pastor, with the help of God that leads us to carry out apostolic mission for the Church of Christ by his Grace, Peace and Love according to our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). I came back from South Sudan to Saskatoon where I gone on holiday prior to COVID 19. Cheryl, Pastor Ali Tote, Assistant to the Bishop, and I met at Synod Office in Saskatoon on Tuesday, May 30, 2023. I have been here at Messiah since June 1, almost eleven months now, by God's grace. I have received a warm welcome from the congregation's members, and am grateful for that welcome. During these months I learned about the activities that the Messiah community is involved in, and carried out the following:

1. **Worship: Ministry of the Word and Sacraments**
   The Ministry Team plans the worship according to Sundays and Seasons order of service (includes linking the weekly texts to the selected hymns: Singing Our Theology – How Hymns shape us for Mission), the bulletin of the week, and community activities related to Messiah. We provide in-person and online worship services beginning at 10:30am each Sunday. The Service is broadcast on the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube channel.

   Since I arrived, there were 42 services at Messiah plus 17 special services at Seniors Homes usually on a monthly basis: Points West on the first Thursday, Good Shepherd on the second Tuesday, Mont St. Joseph on the first Wednesday. Messiah's Mission Statement is applied through hearing and sharing God's Word, we are a worshiping Community, inviting all into Christ's Kingdom, faithfully reaching out to serve and caring for our neighbors and world around us.

2. **Theologically**:
   Attended the Leadership Annual Study Conference in Moose Jaw from September 26-28, 2023.

From February 13 - March 14, 2024 (10 sessions - twice a week), I took the Bridge Leadership Training Course, Stephen Ministry.

3. **Pastoral Activities:**
   - Mondays are always days off.
   - Tuesday, always work at Messiah office. Pastoral duties and making phone calls,
   - Wednesdays, always work at Messiah office for service planning and pastoral duties.
   - Thursday always works at Messiah office, pastoral duties and making phone calls.
   - Fridays, always works at Messiah office, according to the need of parishioners.
   - Saturdays are devotion days for me and reflections for Sundays to come. Also according to need and schedule, there may be are occasions or situations needing my pastoral attention.
   - Holy Sunday - day of celebration.

4. **Visiting and the Phone calls:**
   Recorded - June: 17; July: 23; August: 33; September: 44; October: 45; November: 34; December 57; January: 32; February: 42; March: 45; April: 47. A total of 419 visits and calls over 11 months.

5. **The Holy Baptisms:** are as listed under 2023 Congregational Statistics – 'Pastoral acts.

6. **Youth Ministry & Confirmation:**
   Confirmation classes are scheduled for the first and third Sundays of the month (except holiday weekends). Eric Walters and Dasen Wilkie will be confirmed on May 26, Holy Trinity Sunday. Confirmation classes will continue for Anna Walters, Maya Walters, and Baron Amyotte.

7. **Education:** Bible Studies:
   - Names of God in the Peace Chapel and on Zoom, on the third Tuesday of each month.
   - Lectionary Bible Study in the Peace Chapel and on Zoom, every Wednesday.
   - Messiah Women in the Peace Chapel, on the first Tuesday of each month - Women of the Bible.
   - Messiah Men's Breakfast group gather on the fourth Sunday - fall study on the Life of David, and this spring on Life of Paul.

8. **Children Ministry:**
   Continuing encouragement for families to bring children to Sunday School. Appreciation to May Janzen and Livingstone family: Gloria and Stanley Jr., for helping our Sunday School.

9. **Caring Ministry/ Community service:**
   Senior homes services as noted above, and some home services with Holy Communion for those families when health issues make it difficult to attend Sunday's morning services.

10. **Saskatchewan Synod:**
    Synod Town Hall meetings took place in June, Leadership Study Conference in September, and in October, Synod youth gathered here at Messiah Lutheran on their way to Kinasao Bible Camp, accompanied by Bishop Sid Haugen and Rev. Dr. Ali Tote.

11. **Ministerial/Ecumenical:**
    - ELCIC PA and Area cluster is not functioning currently, no meetings have been held.

- Lenten Season mark the high point for Ministerial / Ecumenical shared ministry in Prince Albert when clergy and church communities came together at Calvary United for worship and fellowship.

12. Continuing Education

As mentioned earlier, the Stephen Ministry training will result in my certification as a Stephen Leader.

Thank you: Thanks and appreciation, God's grace for all of you and the ministry we share. I appreciate any members who are volunteering their time and energy in the liturgy to serve your brothers and sisters in the ministry we share, a Mission of God to the people of God. The work you deliver in and outside Church for your people is blessed by God Almighty. 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 the Women's bible study, Men's Breakfast, coffee time before service and on Tuesday mornings, 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 the many ways you support ministry at Messiah!

2023 Congregational Statistics - Pastoral acts:

Marriages (1):

- Grant Ian Soloducha & Helen Camural Navarro – July 29, 2023 (Rev. Dan Haugen)

Baptisms (5):

- Levi Katherine Joyce Erickson – April 2, 2023 (Weldon Church)
- Elaina Joy Stolee – April 8, 2023 (Lake Park Zion Lutheran Church)
- Holden Robert Dell Johnson – April 9, 2023
- Zayn Norbert Schmid – August 23, 2023
- Zinnia Rose Joy Weinberger – December 29, 2023

Deaths (4):

- Gus Martin Arnason – January 9, 2023
- Marit Aslaug Jacobsen – January 27, 2023
- Beverley Gladys Klarenbach – February 24, 2023
- Marion Louise Hopkins – March 28, 2023

Transfers In (1): Byron Blake Bender

Transfers Out (3): Pastor Francis Schmidt, Gordon Dixon, Sheryl Gale Jarvis

Membership Summary:

Baptized Membership	575	Confirmed Membership	370
Household Membership	170	Non-Membership Households	10

Average Worship Attendance:

- Estimated average weekly in-person attendance for 2023 = 48 (55 services)
- Online views average = 27 (53 services)

In Conclusion, Thanks, Messiah, for calling me to be part of this great community as your Pastor. May God bless our journey together to carry out the Messiah Mission Statement.

For Dut's family, 2024: Alieza lives in Saskatoon with, Nynkuer, Drek, Mabor and Athiei, and Adong lives at Algoma University in Sault Ste, Marie. Ontario.

Pastor John Mayer Dut
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
SASKATCHEWAN SYNOD (ELCIC)

Worship Ministry Team

Many thanks to Colleen, Linda, Jeannette and Cheryl who together with Pastor Dan and now Pastor John coordinate our worship services. In Lisa's role as Administrative Assistant, she makes arrangements for worship assistants, completion and distribution of the news/worship bulletins, and other details related to worship services. Pastor John's leadership and willingness to learn the ways of the Messiah congregation are a gift of ministry at Messiah, and beyond through his on-line services.

Linda continues to dedicate time and effort to decorating the Sanctuary for various seasons of the church year and her efforts are greatly appreciated. We are extremely grateful for the diligence of the Altar Guild whose report follows.

Thanks to our musicians this year, Colleen, Elaine and Susan for their incredible commitment. They are supported by Gord and Lisa on occasion. We bid farewell to Elaine at the end of December, she is missed. Linda and Jack have stepped in when needed which is greatly appreciated.

May continues to serve as choir director accompanied by Colleen, and we are blessed by the sound of music during early Sunday morning practices and then at various sermons. A small group gifted with much talent.

Garry has provided a couple of drama performances, which engages and shares the Bible from a different perspective. He was joined by Lisa and Dave this Easter, and we look forward to what might take place in the future.

Merv supported by Wayne looks after the camera and sound system, providing quality live-streamed worship services. This allows for Messiah to reach beyond the wall of the building into the homes and travels of our congregational family and friends.

Thank you to the people who are able to serve as worship assistants, Bill who faithfully ensures coffee is available prior to Sunday services, and George who often supplies home baking.

Worship services take place most months at Good Shepherd Villas, Mont St. Joseph Home, and Points West Living. Thanks to Pastor John, Linda, Jean and other helpers who provide this ministry within the Prince Albert community.

As you can see, it takes many people doing a variety of things to support worship both here at Messiah and beyond our walls out into community. Thanks to all who are able to contribute; and an invitation to all who are interested in supporting worship whether on a regular or occasional basis.

Altar Guild Ministry Team
Annual Report for 2023

The Altar Guild continues to serve the needs of the Messiah congregation by looking after the preparation and clean up for each Holy Communion occasion, as well as the acquisition and management of Communion supplies. Paraments and banners are changed as necessary throughout the Church year.

The Altar Guild participates in the monthly services delivered at Points West Living, Good Shepherd Villas, and Mont St. Joseph Home, where Holy Communion is served. Approximately 15-30 residents, along with family members and caregivers, attend each of these services.

Submitted by:
Audrey Johnson and Jean Meyers

Education Ministry Team

Included in Pastor John's report.

Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team

On January 5, 2023, the refuge family sponsored by Messiah over 5 years ago became Canadian Citizens. The Sahadi family, Abdulaziz, Iman, and their children said, "We are so proud to become Canadian and we like to say thank you so much for everyone that helped us.

Messiah supports Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and ELCIC National humanitarian efforts through emergency appeals and prayer support. Throughout 2023, information was shared about the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, climate and conflict crisis in East Africa, ongoing crisis in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel, World Refugee Day, and the Gifts from the Heart catalogue.

Advent activities included: Christmas hampers for the public school system and other community families, assisting with the Salvation Army Kettle, Food Bank donations, and the Memorial Tree. Donations to the Food Bank are collected each Sunday and delivered to the local facility.

In response to the need for support for help and support of the homeless in our community, the congregation was invited to support the YWCA Stepping Stones Shelter and Reaching Out. Thanks to all

who contributed personal items and financially, and to May Janzen who makes beautiful quilts which carry our blessings for comfort and warmth.

We continue with potluck lunches following worship services generally on a monthly basis, coffee before service, and other gatherings mentioned throughout this report. Thanks to all who make Messiah a welcoming and caring community.

***Stephen Ministry**: offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members – called Stephen Ministers- to provide high quality, one-to-one, Christ-centred care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.*

On May 7, 2023, the Stephen Ministers in training were commissioned here at Messiah Lutheran Church by Pastor Hugh Farmer and Saskatoon leaders – (Sharon Babcock, Pastor Harold Hesje and Fran Seidler). In fact, without their kind leadership and teachings, the Stephen Ministers of Messiah Lutheran Church – Lisa Haight and Randi Arnot, would not have been able to complete their required training. Alongside our group, Linda Jarock was another student we got to work with who still resides in Saskatoon.

Since our commissioning, Randi and Lisa have been involved with the Stephen Ministry Lutheran Council in Saskatoon that hosts regular meetings twice a month. We take part online through the wonderful capability of Zoom, supporting our larger group of Stephen Ministers. Together we complete "Caring Relationship In-Depth reports", "Check-In Statement" and "Distinctively Christian Care" reports. It is part of our role as Stephen Ministers to support one another in prayer, ideas, questions and encouragement as we share how things are going and any concerns without disclosing any confidential information about the care receiver. Therefore, we are never alone and there as a group to support those who currently have a care receiver. We also continue regular training with new speakers, books, and going over new chapters together from our manuals. It is a well thought-out detailed program that equips those involved and leaves nothing uncovered.

Pastor John Dut joined Messiah in June, and agreed to undergo leadership training so we would ultimately have a leader at Messiah to work alongside in this Ministry. We look forward to our ministry together.

Property Management Ministry Team
2023 Annual Report

The Property Management Ministry Team is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building, ground and three cemeteries. During the year, a formal team did not exist, no projects were undertaken on the building and any small issues were addressed as they appeared.

During the year, the largest time spent was dealing with our insurance policy. The level of service provided by AON and Ecclesiastical Insurance was disappointing, and final resolution took several months. The final payment for the water break cleanup was received and a search for a new insurance company was undertaken. This has been obtained through Cornerstone Insurance in Prince Albert, and our policy is now held by Red River Insurance out of Winnipeg.

The grass cutting and snow shoveling continued to be very capably handled by SHARE. Our custodian, Kari Waldner, also continued to provide excellent bi-weekly cleaning services. Thank you to Pastor John Dut, Garth Ulrich and Merv Bender for taking out and retrieving the weekly recycling and garbage bins. The Spruce Home Cemetery required the removal of fallen trees across the entrance lane and time was spent dealing with burial plot requests and the installation of a few headstones. And special thanks to Dennis and Elaine Serfas, Betty Haugen, and Jean Meyers for the gardening, watering and care of the flower beds. Their efforts to make the Messiah entrances and side yard more welcoming are greatly appreciated.

Projects proposed for 2024:

- Fill the excavation area outside of the building and reinstall the underground sprinkler system valves removed during the water line excavation.
- Cemetery maintenance
- Floor tile cleaning
- Secure two outside water taps from vandalism.

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 alert the office about any building or property issues. If anyone would like to or can assist in any way, please contact Wayne at 306-960-1074.

Wayne Hyde
Property Management Ministry Team

Messiah Lutheran Women

The women met once a month (Saturdays) for several months doing yoga and other exercise tips with Denise Haugen while others completed book discussions. We had a Christmas party in December to finish off the year.

The Women's Bible Study started up again first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the Peace Chapel once again continuing with studying "Women of the Bible".

During the Christmas season, we once again had a "mitten tree" boxes that were filled with toques, scarves, mittens, and anything else suitable for winter weather. These items were donated to Riverside Elementary School, a local school in Prince Albert.

Submitted by: Corrine Amyotte

Men's Breakfast Group Report
For the year ending December 31, 2023

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. This year in late winter, P Dan and Bev graciously hosted our meeting at their beautiful acreage. Thanks Dan and Bev 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 October of 2023. The date moved to fall of 2023 due to renovations at Kinasao. We had 13 men attend the retreat, with P Dan leading the retreat focusing on the life of King David, with Darin Feldstrom serving as our chaplain. Many thanks to these men for their leadership, knowledge and commitment to our retreat.

This past year the men's group hosted an Ash Wednesday pancake and sausage supper, an Easter breakfast held Easter morning after the sunrise service, and a bangers and mash supper at the church on Remembrance Day. Thanks to all the men who faithfully help out at these events. We continue to provide opportunities for congregational fellowship.

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

Nominating Report
Church Council

Term Expiring – 2024

Randi Arnot

Terms Expiring – 2025

Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Merv Bender
Jeannette Tomtene

Terms Expiring – 2026

Corrine Amyotte
David Bragg
Joy Weinberger

Council positions open for election: up to three – three-year terms

The Nominating Committee was not constituted in 2023, nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

CLAY 2023: Ashes & Embers

For the first time since 2018, Lutheran and Anglican youth came together in-person for the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering 2023: *Ashes & Embers*. A joint gathering between the ELCIC and ACC, youth of the two churches gathered from August 10–13. Typically held biennially, the 2020 event *En Route* was hosted online in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

For most in attendance, it was either their first CLAY event or their first in-person CLAY event. Between the large group gatherings, praise and worship sessions, reflective group experiences and personal prayer time, the trip out to Waterloo, Ont. was filled with experiences that will surely last a lifetime.

British Columbia Home Team Leader Darya Saèd submitted team reflections to *Canada Lutheran* —the official magazine of the ELCIC—from some of her youth following CLAY. Those responses are provided below:

"Something I really enjoyed about CLAY was the large group gatherings and the really inspiring workshops that we got to do on the second day."

"I enjoyed CLAY because I get to meet a lot of new people."

"…The concert, meeting new people, playing football, the workshops, all these things were a lot of fun for me."

"I really appreciated all the music…watching everyone dance along or clap along was my favorite part."

"I really enjoyed the concerts and staying up late!"

"I enjoyed hanging out with new friends."

"What I enjoyed about CLAY was just the chance to gather with hundreds of youths from across the country, excited to worship together, excited to learn together… and see the friendships that grow."

"I really enjoyed all the time we got to spend together, worshipping and playing games and just hanging out." ✦

BETWEEN THE LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS, PRAISE AND WORSHIP SESSIONS, REFLECTIVE GROUP EXPERIENCES AND PERSONAL PRAYER TIME, THE TRIP OUT TO WATERLOO, ONT. WAS FILLED WITH EXPERIENCES THAT WILL SURELY LAST A LIFETIME.

The entire CLAY gathering poses for a group shot.

ELCIC members contributed in a variety of ways at the 13th Assembly of The Lutheran World Federation, in Krakow, Poland, September 2023.

The importance of strong partnerships

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada values the life-giving relationships of its many partners within Canada and around the world.

The ecumenical work and interfaith witness of the ELCIC is felt in every corner of the globe. With roughly 95,000 members, the ELCIC is sometimes seen as a small church among the world's Christian churches. However, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson sees it differently.

"Despite limited resources and being a medium-size church, we know our church is far more effective when we work with partners," Bishop Johnson shared in a column for Canada Lutheran. "Together we can accomplish much more, strengthen relationships and work towards becoming a healthier church."

Through partnerships with the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), the ELCIC remains actively involved in the mission and ministry of all three organizations, continuing its growth and outreach with churches of other denominations and faith backgrounds.

The ELCIC also maintains its strong relationship with Canadian advocacy and humanitarian organization KAIROS and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), while working closely with Global Mission and Companion Synod partners.

"We are a valued partner because we participate fully," Bishop Johnson said. We are valued because we take our turn in providing leadership. We are valued as we work to maintain our financial support. We are valued as we are seen being mediators. These partners are here for us as well, praying for us, supporting us, walking with us." ✦

WORSHIP FOR A CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

OPENING THE MEETING

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

You are encouraged to acknowledge Indigenous lands in a way appropriate to your context at the beginning of your annual meeting. The following words are provided as an example.

> *We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the **[Name of Indigenous Peoples for where your community is located]**. We recognize and respect their enduring presence on this land and express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work and learn on their territory.*

Let us take a moment to reflect on the history of this land and to consider our roles in working towards reconciliation and understanding.

PRAYER

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for gathering us together into your church — whether it be in person, online or a combination of the two.

Our community is more than an organization; it is a family united by a shared purpose and mission, to discern the work you call us to do. In this time of reflection and planning, grant us clarity of mind and openness of heart. May our discussions be guided by wisdom, understanding, and a spirit of unity. Help us to see beyond the details and numbers, recognizing the greater purpose and impact of our collective efforts.

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 now.

All this we pray in your name. *Amen.*

READING **1 Timothy 6:17–19**

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

HYMN ***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***
EvLW, #678

LITANY

The prayers below are based on the ELCIC's four vision priorities.

Leader: We come before you today, humbled by the depth of your love that calls us to strive for a Healthier Church. Instill in us the wisdom to foster collaboration among all expressions of the church. Grant us the grace to develop a strong sense of connection, rooted in trust, good communication, creativity and collaboration. May these qualities be the pillars that uphold the foundation of our faith community.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

Leader: As we seek to cultivate Effective Partnerships, open our hearts to the richness of engagement with others. As we navigate the path of collaboration, may our efforts be guided by your love an bring forth abundant fruit.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

Leader: In our pursuit of Relational Leadership, grant us the strengt to deepen diversity and equity in our community. Inspire us to embra inclusivity, creating spaces that reflect the boundless love you have for all your children. May our leadership reflect your grace, fostering an environment where every individual feels valued and heard.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

Leader: Let us lead with Compassionate Justice, guided in our reflections and actions. May we be a voice for justice on issues that matter, advocating for the well-being of all your creation. Grant us t courage to stand up for what is right, inspired by the compassion yo have shown us through Christ.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

Leader: Gracious and loving God, bless us with creativity and perse verance as we navigate the challenges ahead. May our actions be a testament to your love, shining a light that draws others closer to yo All this we pray in your name.

All: Amen.

CLOSING THE MEETING

Leader: Bless our community with a sense of purpose and direction for the coming year. We thank you for the diverse talents and gifts represented in our congregation and community. May we use these resources to show others the blessing of your unconditional love.

Leader: In your holy name we pray,

All: Amen.

HYMN ***Lord of All Hopefulness***
EvLW #765

Leader: Go in peace — in love, justice and a commitment to serve one another and our wider community.

All: Thanks be to God.

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