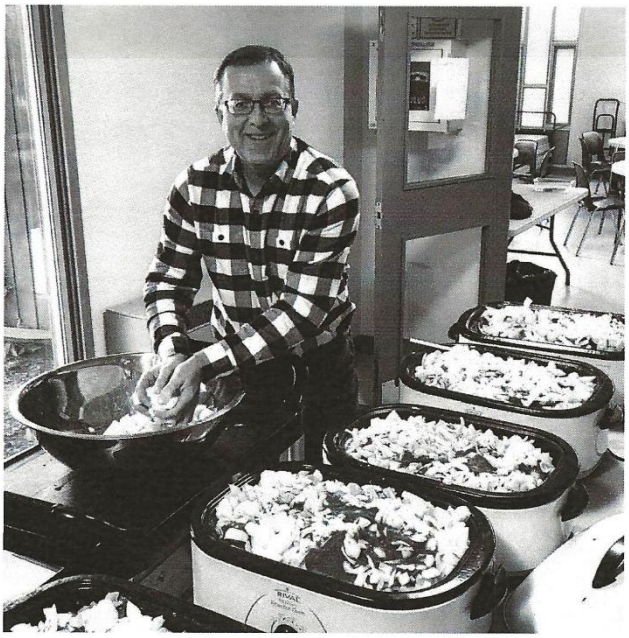
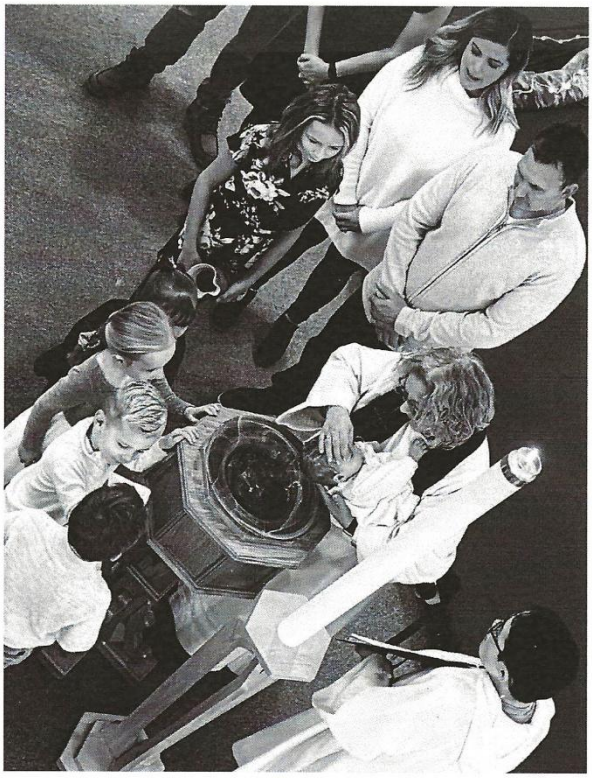
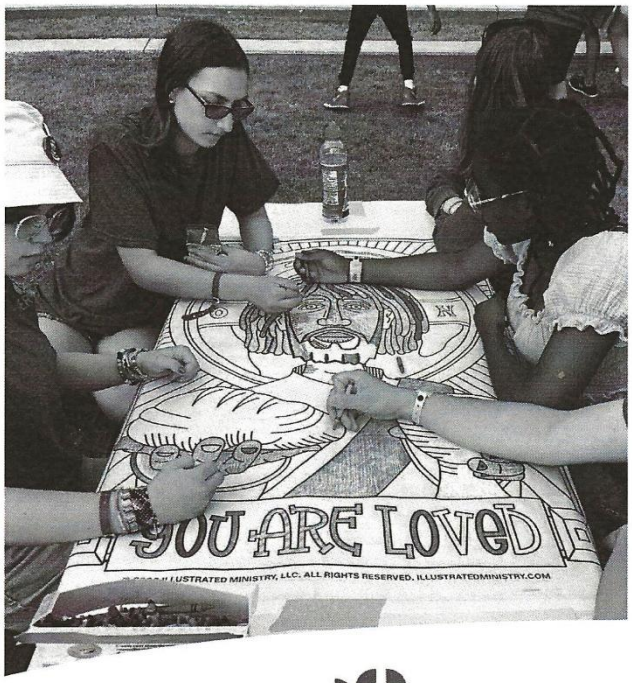
Messiah Lutheran Church, Prince Albert
2024 Annual Report

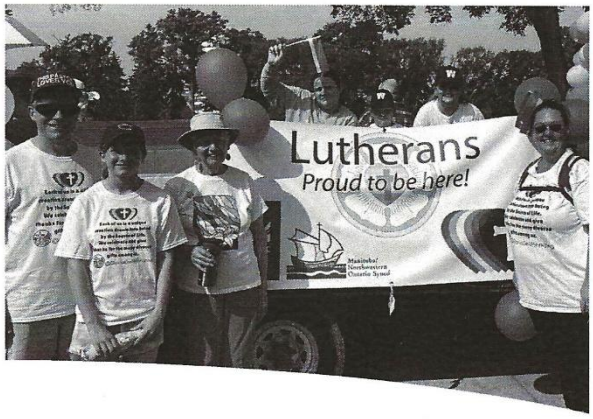




CONGREGATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT





Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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SASKATCHEWAN SYNOD ELCIC
#6-2220 Northridge Dr., Saskatoon, SK, S7 L6X8 • 306-244-2474 • info@sasksynod.ca • www.sasksynod.ca

January 15, 2025

To Congregations of the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC

Bishop's AGM Letter to the church in the SK Synod

Dear pastors, deacons, council chairs, council members, sisters, brothers, siblings,

I am grateful to you all for your faithful work in ministry. Our synod is healthy because you are healthy, and you are healthy because our synod is healthy. This relation of interdependence is rooted in the gospel where Jesus calls us to love and care for one another, care for the world and for creation. We have all been charged with the holy task of proclaiming the gospel, and congregations are the kitchens where the gospel is healthily packaged and served to the world.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Synod, I would like to start by thanking each of you for your commitment to Christ and to the gospel. I seize this opportunity to encourage you to attend your faith community worship and gatherings very regularly, every week/Sunday if possible. I also beg you to invite people in your circle of family and friends to participate with you in your faith community opportunities such as worship, educational, service, or social events. At home, do not shy away from discipling your children and raising them intentionally in the faith. It is for their good to be exposed as much as possible to the gospel, the life-giving gospel that sustains us when our will fails us. Pray with them daily!

Lastly, I implore you to be generous in your support of the church. Generously give to your faith community, to the institutions of our church like CLWR, Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI), Luther College, Kinasao, and other worthy causes. The work of the synod also needs a strong support from congregations and members of the church in the synod. Please, increase your benevolence so that the work and ministry of the synod and the larger church can continue to be done, especially given the exciting opportunities that are ahead of us.

God is faithful, and the Holy Spirit is leading us. Do not be distraught or alarmed but put your confidence and faith in Christ whose body we are a part of! Let's journey in love embracing all people with the love of Christ that knows no boundaries.

Abundant blessings in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Bishop
Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC

Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting
Agenda
March 9, 2025

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 28, 2024
- 4.1 Business Arising

5 Reports
- 5.1 Council
- 5.2 Pastor
- 5.3 Financial
  - 5.3.1 2024 Financial Statement
  - 5.3.2 2024 Internal Financial Review Report
  - 5.3.3 Envelope Secretary
  - 5.3.4 2025 Budget
  - 5.3.5 2025 Internal Review Recommendation
- 5.4 Worship Ministry Team
  - 5.4.1 Altar Guild
- 5.5 Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team
- 5.6 Education Ministry Team
- 5.7 Property Maintenance Ministry Team
- 5.8 Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)
- 5.9 Men's Breakfast Group

6 Elections
- 6.1 Messiah Council
- 6.2 Nominating Committee

7 New Business

8 Adjournment & Closing Devotions

Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting Minutes
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
Chairperson Cheryl Bauer Hyde called the AGM to order at 12:30pm. A total of 22 members signed the attendance sheet.

2 Opening Devotions – led by P John Dut
Prayer followed by the opening reading from 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and hymn 689 followed by litany of prayers. Cheryl reviewed the Messiah mission statement.

3 Adoption of Agenda
Motion: Moved by Byron Bender, seconded by Joy Weinberger, to adopt the agenda as presented. **Carried.**

4 Approval of AGM Minutes – April 30, 2023
Motion: Moved by Hazel Schultz, seconded by Randi Arnot, to accept the minutes as circulated. **Carried.**

4.1 Business Arising: None

5 Financial

5.1 2023 Financial Statements – presented by Garry Reinhart
Motion: Moved by Wayne Hyde, seconded by Byron Bender, to approved the 2023 Financial Statements as presented. **Carried.**

5.2 2023 Internal Financial Review Report – presented by Garry Reinhart
Motion: Moved by Collen Bowen, seconded by Jean Meyers, to accept the report as presented. **Carried**

5.3 Envelope Secretary report – accepted as circulated.

5.4 2024 Budget – presented by Garry Reinhart
Motion: Moved by Joy Weinberger, seconded by Corrine Amyotte, to accept the budget as presented. **Carried.**

We have adopted a deficit budget so we will need to be aware of this going forward. A question was asked about further congregational meetings to stay connected to our first planning meeting. Cheryl indicated that we would likely meet this fall.

5.5 2024 Internal Review Recommendation – presented by Cheryl.
Motion: Moved by Randi Arnot seconded by Wayne Hyde, that Messiah Lutheran Church dispenses with the appointment of an auditor pursuant to the provisions of s. 151 of the Non-

Profit Corporations Act of the province of Saskatchewan for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024**. Carried.**

6 Reports

6.1 Council

Cheryl thanked the various members of the congregation for their work and support. Cheryl also thanked Pastor John and Pastor Dan for their service over the past year.

6.2 Pastor

Pastor John reviewed his report and talked about his time serving the congregation since his arrival last spring. He thanked all who helped with worship service. He reported about confirmation, services at seniors homes, and process to be approved for visitation at the hospital. He again thanked those who helped him with the various ministries. He asked that God lead us and guide us as we move forward!

6.3 Worship Ministry Team – circulated in the annual report**.**

6.3.1 Altar Guild – included in the ministry team report**.**

6.4 Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team

This report includes the Stephen ministry report.

6.5 Education Ministry Team – is included in P John's report.

6.6 Property Maintenance Ministry Team – included in report.

6.7 Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW) – included in report.

6.8 Men's Breakfast Group – included in report.

Motion: Moved by Byron Bender, seconded by Colleen Bowen, that the reports be accepted as circulated**. Carried**

7 Elections

7.1 Messiah Council

The list of current council members includes Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Merv Bender and Jeannette Tomtene whose terms expire in 2025; Corrine Amyotte, Joy Weinberger and David Bragg, whose terms expire in 2026. Randi Arnot's term expires in 2024.

Randi was thanked for her service on Messiah Council

Cheryl called for nominations three times and Byron Bender agreed to be nominated.

Motion: Moved by Jean Meyers, seconded by Lorne Christopherson, that nominations cease. **Carried**.

Byron Bender was declared elected by acclamation for a three year term.

7.2 Nominating Committee

Merv Bender and David Bragg were nominated to serve on the nominating committee.

Motion: Moved by Randi Arnot, seconded by Jean Meyers, that nominations cease. **Carried.**

Merv Bender and Dave Bragg were declared elected by acclamation.

8 **New Business –** there was no new business.

9 **Closing Devotions –** led by P John at 1:05pm.

List of members attending the 2024 AGM

Cheryl Bauer Hyde	Merv Bender
David Bragg	Byron Bender
Randi Arnot	Corrine Amyotte
Hazel Schultz	Janice Dubray
Joy Weinberger	Lorne Christopherson
Sandra Christopherson	Willi Baessler
Rev. John Mayer Dut	Colleen Bowen
Garry Reinhardt	Louise Fornal
Wayne Hyde	Dan Haugen
Lois Tomtene	Terry Tomtene
Harvey Jacobsen	Sheila Baessler

Messiah Council's Report
For the Year ending December 31, 2024

Joshua 1:9: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*
In the journey of life, moments of fear and uncertainty are inevitable. We encounter crossroads where the path ahead seems shrouded in darkness, and the weight of our decisions bears heavily on our shoulders. It is during these times that we can draw strength and courage from the timeless words found in Joshua 1:9. This verse, spoken to Joshua as he prepared to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, resonates deeply with each of us. It is a call to embrace courage, not as a fleeting emotion, but as a steadfast commitment to face challenges with unwavering faith.

We give thanks for stewardship within Messiah – both in volunteer time and financial support. Your prayerful consideration of the Messiah ministry needs and your responses of time and financial resources are greatly appreciated. It's been a few years since we last circulated the 'Share Your Gifts' volunteer checklist. Pastor John will use the form during his phone and in-person visits, and it will be available for pick up and completion. Even if you've completed it in the past, we encourage everyone to complete it so that your participation at Messiah can be recorded and/or updated.

In addition to in-person services, Messiah continues with live and posted online services. Fellowship is enjoyed at coffee times, potlucks, and other gatherings. Pastor John provides monthly services at three senior residences with the assistance of Linda, Jean and May.

Bishop Rev. Dr. Ali Tote continued to lead us as we talked about our vision going forward. Some of the ideas have been implemented, however others require more discussion and leadership to implement. A couple of Synod strategies related to Children, Youth & Young Adult and small group gatherings may offer examples of activities which could be used here at Messiah.

As we shared at last year's AGM when the 2024 deficit budget was tabled, which resulted in an actual slightly larger deficit by year end, finances are a concern for the ongoing viability of Messiah. The overhead cost of maintaining the building plus staff and ministry costs simply exceeds the current donations and other revenue. This year's budget is similar and based on 2024 actual results, we are projecting another deficit and may in fact exceed the available cash flow for operations by year end.

Over the past year, initial discussions have been held with three entities about possible co-operative ventures. The first discussions did not result in any action on the part of that organization. However, representatives of the second organization would like to engage in further discussions about a collaborative approach. The third group which would be a sub-lease arrangement is on hold pending the outcome of discussions with the second organization. Further details will be shared at the Annual General Meeting, and Council is seeking support from our members to continue these discussions. Any final decisions or undertakings will only be done with the approval of the Messiah membership.

Thanks to the congregation for their ongoing support, Pastor John and Administrative Assistant Lisa; Council members Corrine Amyotte, Byron Bender, Merv Bender, David Bragg, 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; and all those who contribute through the ministry teams, committees and other ways to support the Messiah ministry.

Oh behalf of Messiah Council

Cheryl

Pastor's Report
March 9, 2025

Our Savior

1 But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5a Do not be afraid, for I am with you. ***Isaiah 43:1-5a***

MESSIAH LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 9, 2025

Since I received the call from Messiah Lutheran Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Synod (ELCIC), on April 3, 2023, Messiah Lutheran has become a place for me in the Ministry of God, home and social contacts. Social life begins on Sunday morning with coffee time before service. In service we share the Great Thanksgiving – Lord Supper twice a month and on other special occasions. On the second Sunday of most months, we share in a Potluck lunch.

I am here at Messiah since June 1, 2023, almost 22 months now, by God's grace. I have received graceful support from God, the Council, and each one of you, the graceful members of Messiah Lutheran. Each Ministry, you are there as a Team, Committee and personnel to support the Messiah Mission to the People of God, the neighbors here in Prince Albert and surrounding communities, and around the world. During these months I learned about many activities that the Messiah community is involved in making Messiah as Home, and Refuge to newcomers as God's calling to make disciples from all nations. So, we are grateful, and Almighty God helps us carry out the following services and activities:

1. **Worship: Ministry of the Word and Sacraments**
   The Ministry Team plans worship services according to Sundays and Seasons order of service, to achieve our spiritual goals. For many around us, Messiah becomes a place of hope in Jesus Christ. What will 2025 bring - resolutions that promise health of our community, prosperity, or treatment for our declining attendance, with prayers to firmly place our hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus leads and guides us to remember the passion we feel for God in-person and online in Sunday morning worship services.

   Just looking back for a moment causes our gratitude to rise to God, equips us as Team of worship. He chose you to be daughters and sons; apostles and witnesses to God's grace to the world! God chose you! Before you set your observation on the year ahead, look back. Consider what God has done. How did He work in your life in 2024? What prayers did He answer? In what ways have you grown spiritually? In Philippians 2:13–14, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God

who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." The idea of "working out one's salvation" refers to living out one's faith; carrying it out correctly. These are not words we necessarily want to hear, but if we want to get in good shape, you "work out," not "sit out." The Christian life is not an easy one. It is not a playground, but a battleground.

Since last 2024, we served 54 services at Messiah plus 39 special services at Seniors Homes. Messiah's Mission Statement is applied through hearing and sharing God's Word, we are a worshiping Community in Prince Albert and the surrounding area, inviting all into Christ's Kingdom, faithfully reaching out to serve and caring for our neighbors, and the world around us. Just as individuals do, let us positively start a new beginning to new seasons in our lives in our ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church. The next chapter might be difficult, need hard work, demanding from each one of us a high level of cooperation and solidarity as the Messiah Community to keep ministry going to our neighbors that brings new and wonderful opportunities to glorify God. I am excited and I hope you are as well.

God is good. God is faithful. God is able to take us to the next level. I KNOW that as we remain faithful in proclaiming and living out the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in 2024, and being faithful managers of all that God entrusts into our care, God's kingdom will prosper and advance in and through us to our neighbors near and far.

2. **Theologically**:
   I attended FLAG (Fall Lutheran Anglican Gathering) of rostered leaders of the Saskatchewan Synod in Moose Jaw in September 2024. I keep encouraging Messiah parishioners with phone calls to hear what is going well, and what is lacking especially at worship services. And what we can do to make it RIGHT! Our visioning sessions, where we discussed UP, IN AND OUT summarised what we need to do. Can we do it?

3. **Pastoral Activities** (weekly)**:**
   - Monday: day off.
   - Tuesday: work at Messiah office, pastoral duties and making phone calls,
   - Wednesday: work at Messiah office for service planning and pastoral duties.
   - Thursday: work at Messiah office, pastoral duties and making phone calls.
   - Friday: work at Messiah office, according to the need of parishioners.
   - Saturday: devotion days for me and reflections for Sundays to come; also according to need when there are occasions or situations needing my pastoral attention.
   - Holy Sunday - day of celebration.

   Pastoral duties include hospital and home (including holy communion) visits, senior home services, counselling, office and Synod work, etc.

4. **Visiting and the Phone calls:**
   Recorded: May 2024 – 23; June 2024 - 40; July 2024 - 22; August 2024 - 24; September 2024 - 47; October 2024 - 34; November 2024 - 14; December 2024 - 49; January 2025 - 34; February 2025 - 15; A total of 302 visits and calls over 10 months.

5. **Holy Baptism:** as listed under 2024 Congregational Statistics – Pastoral acts.

6. **Youth Ministry & Confirmation:** Classes this year 2024-2025, between ages 13-15 years old plus two older in special catch up, to be confirmed next year. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, June 8, Day of Pentecost. We started on Sunday, September 15, 2024, with classes scheduled until June 1, 2025; on the first and third Sundays of each month except holidays. 2025 Confirmands are: Anna Walters

and Maya Walters. Confirmation classes will continue / begin for Baron Amyotte, Kaitlyn Chemey, Melisaa Rose Willis, Lucus Malual Arop, Christine Rudd, Brooklyn Aiken, and Athiei Dut.

7. **Education:** Bible Studies:
   - Lectionary Bible Study in the Peace Chapel and on Zoom, every Wednesday.
   - *1 Corinthians* in the Peace Chapel and on Zoom, on the third Tuesday of each month.

8. **Children Ministry:** Continued encouragement for families to bring children to Sunday School. We are blessed with beautiful children at worship service, and attending Sunday School and the nursery, with joy and a lot of energy. Our appreciation and gratitude to May Janzen, Joy, Linda and Cheryl for making these children smile every Sunday.

9. **Caring Ministry/ Community services:** Senior Home Services with Holy Communion are scheduled monthly from September – June: Mont St. Joseph, the first Wednesday; Points West Living, the first Thursday; Good Shepherd, the second Tuesday every month. Regular visits are made to people at Victoria Hospital, and homes services with Holy Communion for those people/families when health issues make it difficult to attend worship service for four consecutive weeks.

10. **Saskatchewan Synod:** Saskatchewan Synod's Convention 2024 May/June 2024, Rev. Dr. Ali Tote was elected to succeed; Rev. Dr. Bishop Sid Haugen. I received recognition for 10 years of ministry. Bishop Ali led a Youth Retreat at Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp; the FLAG (Fall Lutheran Anglican Gathering) in Moose Jaw from September 29 – October 1, 2024 (theme of Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day September 29); and instituted what are to be regular gatherings for rostered and lay leaders titled P.A.R.L.E.Z (People Addressing Relevant Lutheran Enquiries On Zoom) – name as proposed by Pastor Dennis and Elaine Serfas.

11. **Ministerial/Ecumenical:**
    - ELCIC, the Northern area ministry rostered leaders gathered twice since December. The March gathering will be hosted by Messiah here in Prince Albert.
    - The Lenten Season marked a high point for Ministerial / Ecumenical ministry when clergy and church communities came together at Calvary United under the leadership of Pastor Nora Vedress for worship and fellowship, followed with soup/sandwich lunch. Messiah /Pastor Dut offered the Homily and Messiah Lutheran Women provided lunch on February 22, 2024.

12. **Continuing Education**

Beside Pastor studies, I have joined the Books Club on Zoom. We review one or two books every two weeks, led by brother, Bryan Tastad. In 2024, the Messiah Lutheran Stephen Ministry Team (Randi, Lisa and Pastor John) and our peer group, members of Stephen Ministry from Saskatoon, studied the book, The Gift of Empathy.

Finally, thank you Messiah: Thanks, and appreciation, for sharing the God of grace as the Messiah Community. I appreciate any members who volunteer your time, energy and talent to lead people of God to **THE LIGHT** 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 Messiah for your people is blessed by God Almighty. Amen.

The work of Messiah Council is significant, the Ministry Teams, to musicians, readers, ushers, camera and power point operators, the Messiah Office, financial volunteers, and 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 and shelters, those who assist with teaching Sunday school, leading the

Women's bible study, Men's Breakfast, coffee time before service and for Coffee & Conversations mornings, and more. God is working through you. We are the body of Christ, and our work together builds one another up. Thank you to each of you for everything you did to support ministry at Messiah! Amen.

2024 Congregational Statistics - Pastoral acts:

Confirmation (2):

- *Eric Walters* – May 26, 2024
- *Dasen Wilkie* – May 26, 2024

Baptisms (13):

- *Addison Lynn Murray* – February 11, 2024
- *Henrik Trond Tomtene* – March 3, 2024
- *Nyasebit Kaman Guwir* – March 22, 2024
- *Borwen Kaman Guwir* – March 22, 2024
- *Guwir Kaman Guwir* – March 22, 2024
- *Sunday Kaman Guwir* – March 22, 2024
- *Nyachock Kaman Guwir* – March 22, 2024
- *Lucas Malual Arop* – March 22, 2024
- *Deng Arop* – March 22, 2024
- *Nyandong Arop* – March 22, 2024
- *Madison Marie Oaklynn Drysdale* – August 18, 2024
- *Rose Darlene Schmid* – November 8, 2024
- *Tong Kon Tong Chor Malek* – November 17, 2024

Deaths (3):

- *Irene Mary Edwards* – April 5, 2024
- *Betty Anderson* – April 13, 2024
- *Carl George Klarenbach* – July 25, 2024

Transfers In (1):

Pastor John Mayer Dut – November 2024

Membership Summary:

Baptized Membership	585	Confirmed Membership	370
Household Membership	170	Non-Membership Households	10

Average Worship Attendance:

- Estimated average weekly in-person attendance for 2024 = 42 (out of 56 services)
- Online views average = 24 (out of 53 services)

For the Dut family, 2024: Alieza lives in Saskatoon with Nynkuer and her son Tong, Mabor and Athiei; Drek is at University of BC, and Adong is at Algoma University, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

Pastor John Mayer Dut
Messiah Lutheran Church/Prince Albert
Saskatchewan Synod (ELCIC)

Report of the Internal Financial Reviewers for the Year Ending 2024

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

The financial statements of the 2024 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 2024 year.

Dated in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, this 23rd day of February 2025.

Denise Taylor

Wayne Hyde

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
OPERATING FUND
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Bank	$44,613	$72,626
Petty cash	50	50
GST and accounts receivable	249	185
Term deposit	2,711	2,615
Conexus membership share	5	5
	$47,628	$75,481
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Key deposits	$410	$410
Accounts payable	7,065	4,905
	7,475	5,315
Term loan due on demand	0	0
	$7,475	$5,315
EQUITY		
Equity	40,153	70,166
	$ 47,628	$ 75,481

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED

Cheryl Bauer Hyde

Council Member

Joy Weinberger

Council Member

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$139,983	$145,138
Offerings – loose	2,000	2,674	2,185
Missions	4,100	3,310	3,355
Other Income (note 5)	4,800	8,064	8,412
Total revenue	170,900	154,031	159,090
Expenditures			
Missions			
ELCIC	2,000	1,810	1,650
Lutheran World Relief	2,000	1,500	1,705
SK Synod special contribution	5,000	0	5,000
Other	100	0	100
	9,100	3,310	8,355
Ministries			
Education:			
Confirmation supplies	400	0	0
Parish education – general	1,000	1,182	1,555
Parish education – Sunday School	100	0	0
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	0
Stewardship program	100	0	0
	2,100	1,182	1,555
Youth:			
Campership	250	0	0
Program costs	500	0	0
	750	0	0
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	0

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Ministries (continued)			
Worship:			
Sanctuary supplies	100	27	427
Kinasao	100	100	1,500
Sunday service broadcasting	1,600	593	900
Sundry	500	219	0
	2,300	939	2,827
Conferences and conventions:			
Pastor's\lay leadership conferences	800	531	741
National / Synodical convention	1,500	1,697	952
	2,300	2,228	1,693
Building			
Insurance	9,500	9,233	10,675
Repairs and maintenance	2,500	1,089	4,573
Janitorial	6,000	6,812	5,883
Supplies – janitorial	500	278	524
Utilities - power	3,500	3,756	3,648
- energy	5,000	4,649	4,686
- water	1,000	1,068	960
Snow removal	1,500	3,864	1,154
Spruce Home cemetery	400	400	0
	29,900	31,149	32,103
Office			
Advertising/website	100	150	150
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	78	117
Office and photocopy supplies	800	626	570
Photocopies maintenance agreement	500	887	331
Postage	300	130	217
Transportation subsidy	500	1,638	416
Christmas supplies and other	250	229	12
Telephone	3,500	3,869	3,464
	6,150	7,607	5,277

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	78,342	78,642	58,377
Pastor's mileage	1,500	988	1,409
Supply Pastor's and additional staff	500	200	2,208
Administrative assistant	25,522	25,522	24,724
Organists	500	0	637
Treasurer honorarium	4,000	600	750
Employee benefits-CPP\EI	7,241	7,293	5,682
ELCIC pension	8,309	8,309	5,519
ELCIC Benefits	4,674	4,674	2,418
Health and dental	10,800	10,800	9,002
WCB	0	0	208
Continuing education	600	600	35
Book allowance	100	0	0
	142,088	137,628	111,284
Total expenditures	194,988	184,043	163,094
Net income(loss) from operations	(24,088)	(30,011)	(4,004)
Equity, beginning of year	70,166	70,166	74,170
Equity, end of year	$ 46,078	$ 40,155	$ 70,166

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
OPERATING FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$ (30,011)	$ (4,004)
Change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST and accounts receivable	(64)	63
Key deposits	0	20
Term loan	0	(40,000)
Term deposit	(96)	(76)
Accounts payable	2,158	2,012
Increase in cash from operations	(28,013)	(41,985)
Cash, beginning of year	72,676	114,661
Cash, end of year	$ 44,663	$ 72,676

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
CAPITAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank-operating - unrestricted funds	$ 6,163	$ 5,077
- reserves	5,014	5,014
Conexus- redeemable member equity	7	7
	11,184	10,098
Bank-designated funds	13,184	15,558
GST receivable	4	0
	18,205	25,656
	462,053	497,021
Capital assets (note 2)	$486,426	$522,677
	=======	=======
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Capital reserves	$ 5,014	$ 5,014
Designated funds:		
- Youth group	5,200	4,685
- MLW	1,745	1,778
- Men's breakfast group	875	1,018
- Caring Ministry	5.374	8,077
	18,198	20,572
EQUITY		
Equity	468,228	502,105
	$486,426	$522,677
	=======	=======

(See accompanying notes)

APPROVED

Cheryl Bauer Ayde
Council Member

Joy Weinberger
Council Member

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
CAPITAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual
Cash inflow			
Offerings - Regular	$2,000	$2,170	$3,320
- Gifts & memorials	500	140	1,275
Interest earned and other revenue	100	113	196
Transferred from (to) reserves	0	0	24,000
Transferred from(to) designated funds	(500)	0	(2,063)
Total cash inflow	2,100	2,423	26,728
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases-building	0	0	0
- furniture and equipment	2.500	0	568
Capital lease-telephones	0	0	0
Capital purchases - software	0	0	
Bank charges	0	10	0
Major repairs	0	1,322	23,999
Total cash outflow	2,500	1,332	24,567
Net cash inflow(outflow) from operations	(400)	1,091	2,161
Amortization	(42,000)	(34,968)	(41,689)
Non operating expenditures-capital purchases	0	0	568
Net income (loss)	(42,400)	(33,877)	(38,960)
Equity, beginning of year	468,228	502,105	541,065
Equity, end of year	$ 425,828	$ 468,228	$ 502,105

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
CAPITAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Unrestricted operating cash		
Cash provided by (used for) operations:		
Net income (loss)	$(33,877)	$(38,960)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	34,968	41,689
	891	2,729
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
GST receivable	4	235
	895	2,964
Cash provided by (used for) investment activities:		
Purchase of capital asset	0	(568)
Increase (decrease) in cash	895	2,396
Unrestricted operating cash, beginning of year	5,077	2,681
Unrestricted operating cash, end of year	$ 6,163	$ 5,077
Designated, deferred and trust funds cash		
Cash provided by (used for) funds:		
Capital reserves	0	(21,937)
Designated funds	(2,374)	(16)
Increase (decrease) in cash	(2,374)	(21,953)
Cash, beginning of year	20,572	42,525
Cash, end of year	$ 18,198	$ 20,572

(See accompanying notes)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

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

	2024			2023
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Land	$ 167,586	$ 0	$167,586	$167,586
Building	1,020,159	737,392	282,767	313,353
Furnishings & Equipment	242,856	231,156	11,700	16,082
Parking lot	3,980	3,980	0	0
Shed	2,368	2,368	0	0
	$1,436,949	$974,895	$462,053	$497,021

3. BANK INDEBTNESS

At December 31, 2024, Messiah had a line of credit totaling $30,000 (2023 - $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

	2024	2023
Other income includes the following:		
Operating fund		
Fund-raising revenue	$ 0	$4,750
Premises usage	7,485	3,250
Miscellaneous	579	412
	$8,064	$8,412

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 BUDGET

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 OPERATING BUDGET

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Revenue			
Offerings	$160,000	$139,983	$150,000
Offerings - loose	2,000	2,674	2,000
Missions	4,100	3,310	3,500
Fund raising	2,000	0	2,000
Premises usage	2,500	7,485	5,000
Other revenue	300	579	300
Total Revenue	170,900	154,031	162,800
Expenditures			
Missions			
Sask. Synod\ELCIC	2,000	1,810	1,800
CLWR	2,000	1,500	1,500
Sask Synod Benevolence	5,000	0	5,000
Other	100	0	100
	9,100	3,310	8,400
Ministries			
Education			
Confirmation supplies	400	0	400
Education – general & adult	1,000	1,182	1,000
Education – Sunday School	100	0	100
Stewardship program	100	0	0
Caring Ministry & Community Service	500	0	500
	2,100	1,182	2,000
Youth			
Campership	250	0	250
Youth conference	0	0	0
Program costs	500	0	500
	750	0	750
Music and share faith renewal	300	0	300

Expenditures (continued)	2024	2024	2025
Ministries (continued)	**Budget**	**Actual**	**Budget**
Worship			
Sanctuary supplies	100	247	100
Kinasao	100	100	100
Service Broadcasting / Licenses	1,600	592	1,600
Sundry	500	0	500
	3,300	930	2,300
Conferences and conventions			
Pastor - Leadership Conference	800	531	800
Synod / National Convention levy	1,500	1,697	1,500
	2,300	2,228	2,300
Building			
Insurance	9,500	9,233	9,500
Repairs and Maintenance	2,500	1,089	2,500
Janitorial	6,000	6,812	6,000
Supplies – janitorial	500	278	500
Utilities – power	3,500	3,756	3,500
- gas	5,000	4,649	5,000
- water	1,000	1,068	1,000
Grass/Snow removal	1,500	3,864	1,500
Spruce Home cemetery	400	400	400
	29,900	31,149	29,900
Office			
Website	100	150	100
Bank charges, interest and fees	200	78	200
Office and photocopy supplies	800	626	800
Photocopy maintenance agreement	500	887	500
Postage	300	130	300
Transportation subsidy	500	1,638	500
Christmas supplies and other	250	229	250
Telephone	3,500	3,869	3,500
	6,150	7,607	6,150

Expenditures (continued)	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Salaries and benefits			
Pastor's salary	78,342	78,342	80,692
Pastor's mileage	1,500	988	1,500
Supply Pastors & Mileage	500	200	0
Administrative Assistant	25,522	25,522	26,158
Organists	500	0	500
Treasurer honourarium	4,000	600	4,000
Employee Benefits – CPP / EI	7,241	7,293	7,774
- ELCIC pension	8,309	8,309	8,309
- ELCIC benefits	4,674	5,236	4,674
- Health and dental	10,800	10,800	11,820
- WCB	0	0	0
- Continuing education	600	600	600
- Book Allowance	100	0	300
	142,088	137,628	147,127
Total Expenditures	194,988	184,043	203,677
Net income (loss)	(24,088)	(30,011)	(40,877)
Equity, beginning of year	70,166	70,166	40,155
Equity, end of year	$ 46,078	$ 40,155	($ 722)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 CAPITAL BUDGET

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Cash inflow			
Offerings – regular	2,000	2,170	2,000
Gifts and memorial	500	140	15,000
Interest earned and other revenue	100	113	100
Transferred from reserves	0	0	5,000
Transferred (to) reserves	(500)	0	(15,000)
Total cash inflow	2,100	2,423	7,100
Cash outflow			
Capital purchases			
- building	0	0	5,000
- furniture and equipment	0	0	0
Capital lease – telephones	0	0	0
Major repairs – other	2,500	1,322	3,700
Bank charges	0	10	0
Total cash outflow	2,500	1,332	8,500
Net cash (outflow) from operations	(400)	1,091	(1,600)
Amortization	(42,400)	(34,968)	(42,000)
Non operating expenditures – capital assets	2,500		3,700
Net income (loss)	(40,300)	(33,877)	(39,900)
Equity, beginning of year	468,228	502,105	468,228
Equity, end of year	$427,928	$468,228	428,328

Envelope Secretary Report
For the year ending 31 December 2024

This year we issued 98 tax receipts for a total of $148,593. Last year, donations totaled $155,297, a decrease of $6,614. Loose offerings totaled $2040, a slight increase of $423.

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, or economic conditions change. Most of our funding comes from retired folk. Circumstances can change quickly and they have.

Donations have dropped off over the past number of years. The number of donors have fallen as well. The pandemic had been at least partly responsible for decreases in earlier years. Thankfully, we notice several of our donors continuing to be faithful and often is reflected by a number of significant donations coming at the end of the year.

	% Donors 2024	% Donations	% Donors 2023	% Donations
Over $5000	8%	42.4%	6.7%	34.9%
Over $3000	17%	64.3%	16.4%	60.5%
Over $2000	25%	75.6%	19.7%	67.5%
Over $1000	41%	89.5%.	39.3%	88.5%
Under $1000	59%	9.5%	61.7%	11.5%

At our annual meeting four 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 Cheryl (306.961.2967). 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 (your name and/or account number). The date is irrelevant. You may pick up a supply of offering envelopes that may have had the number blanked out or has a number other than your own. 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. The more information provided on your envelope will better prevent mistakes in recording your donation correctly for tax purposes.

Harvey Jacobsen Envelope Secretary

Worship Ministry Team
Annual Report for 2024

Many thanks to Colleen, Linda, and Cheryl who together with 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 ministry is a gift at Messiah, and beyond through on-line services.

Linda continues to dedicate time and effort to decorating the Sanctuary is greatly appreciated. We are extremely grateful for the diligence of the Altar Guild whose report follows.

Thanks to our musicians this year, Colleen, Susan and Linda for their incredible commitment. They are supported by Jack, Gord and Lisa on occasion. May served as choir director accompanied by Colleen for the first part of 2024, and we are blessed by the sound of music during early Sunday morning practices and then at various sermons. Garry has provided a couple of drama performances, which engages and shares the Bible from a different perspective.

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 and George who faithfully ensure 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, Jean, Linda, May and other helpers who provide this ministry within the Prince Albert 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

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 special care home, where Holy Communion is served. Approximately 10-20 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.

Messiah supports Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and ELCIC National humanitarian efforts through emergency appeals and prayer support. Throughout 2024, information was shared about support for Syria and Turkiye, climate and conflict crisis in East Africa (Burundi and Sudan), ongoing crisis in Gaza and Ukraine, World Refugee Day, and the Gifts from the Heart catalogue.

Advent activities included: Christmas hampers for the public school system and Messiah members, assisting with the Salvation Army Kettle, and Food Bank donations. Donations to the Food Bank are collected each Sunday and delivered to the Prince Albert facility. Thank you to those who donated food items and made monetary contributions to assist with the Christmas food hampers. In addition, a memorial tree was set up with poinsettias, book marks and stars provided for people to add the name in memory of a loved one. Following Christmas, the memorial items were available to take home.

In response to the need 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.

Prepared by Jean Meyers and Cheryl Bauer Hyde

Stephen Ministries

Stephen Ministries equips and empowers churches to provide high-quality, one-on-one care for individuals facing life's difficulties. The courses provided are based on sound theology and solid psychology which gives us an assortment of tools to have in our tool kit. Lisa Haight and Randi Arnot have been trained by Stephen Ministries to offer confidential, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual support to those experiencing challenges such as grief, illness, divorce, or other various crises. This lay ministry extends compassionate listening and encouragement, complementing Pastor John's pastoral care.

In addition to weekly meetings with care receivers, Lisa and Randi attend virtual meetings every two weeks with Team Leaders and other care providers in Saskatoon. These meetings are part of the program from Stephen Ministry that provide ongoing training and prayer support for the Stephen Ministers. Care receivers are not identified in these discussions as confidentiality is a strong characteristic of Stephen Ministry. However, we do discuss how our sessions are going using "In Depth" reports and "Check-In statements". The feedback and much encouragement, helps to give one another a support network to lean on for guidance as they walk through the caring relationship.

This past year we studied some of the sections of our training manual modules that weren't covered in the course along with revisiting some sections from the course for review. Furthermore, we studied the book; "The Gift of Empathy" as a group, discussing several chapters during our virtual meetings as well as meeting together with one another here at Messiah to share the impact of the book. On top of what Stephen Ministry already teaches, this book emphasized the practical insights and real-life examples of how to relate in empathetic ways. Overall, we learned it is a skill to be learned that everyone is capable of with deliberate practice and attention.

Being empathetic doesn't mean having all the right answers or needing to cheer someone up; instead its about encouragement, connection, feeling accepted and cared for. Using empathy in this manner will only help to build stronger relationships, create safer spaces to share, build trust, expand your own perspective, approach others with more confidence and help you to grow personally.

We encourage you or a group of any kind to read and review this book. Messiah has a few copies to lend out, or together we could do another study. Please feel free to ask anyone of us or Pastor John about this book or anything related to Stephen Ministry. Think of how healthy our congregation would be if we all had a little more ***empathy*** with one another.

Submitted by: Randi Arnot and Lisa Haight

Property Management Ministry Team
2024 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.

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 is also extended to Pastor John Dut, Garth Ulrich and Merv Bender for taking out and retrieving the weekly recycling and garbage bins.

Projects proposed for 2025:

- Fill the excavation area on the south side of the building where water line repairs occurred
- Obtain estimates to reinstall the underground sprinkler system valves removed during the water line excavation.
- Cemetery inspection and maintenance on all three sites as required
- Floor tile cleaning and investigation into the lifting of a number of floor tiles
- Roof drain cleaning and inspection of entire roof

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.

Property Management Ministry Team: Wayne Hyde

Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)
Annual Report for 2024

For the first four months of the year, we held bible studies on the first Tuesday of the month @ 7:00pm in the Peace Chapel.

We hosted one Lenton lunch for the Christian Community at Calvary United. Twice a month on Tuesday, moving to Thursday mornings at 10:00am in October, we hosted a "coffee and conversation" group open to anyone who would like to join us.

During the summer, we took a break from activities. Once the fall arrived, Linda organized a wiener roast held in October. MLW enjoyed an afternoon Christmas party in December filled with fun activities, goodies and fellowship.

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 again to students in need at Riverside Elementary School.

Submitted by: **Corrine Amyotte**

Men's Breakfast Group Report
For the year ending December 31, 2024

The Messiah men's group was less active this year than in past years as we are a smaller group. We have attendance of 6 – 8 men at our breakfast meetings and we meet in the fellowship hall or the Peace chapel.

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.

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.

Our men's group, in partnership with Kinasao, hosted a men's retreat in April 2024 We had 15 men attend the retreat, with P Dan leading the retreat focusing on the life of Paul (Saul), 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 (and women!) who faithfully help 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

Terms Expiring – 2025

Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Merv Bender

Terms Expiring – 2026

Corrine Amyotte
David Bragg
Joy Weinberger

Term Expiring – 2027

Byron Bender

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

The Nominating Committee acclaimed for 2024 is Merv Bender and David Bragg. Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

OPENING WORSHIP

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 theopportunity 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 and bring forth abundant fruit.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

Leader: In our pursuit of Relational Leadership, grant us the strength to deepen diversity and equity in our community. Inspire us to embrace 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 the courage to stand up for what is right, inspired by the compassion you have shown us through Christ.

All: Open wide our hands in sharing.

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

All: Amen.

CLOSING WORSHIP

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.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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