



2022 Annual Report

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Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2023
immediately following the 9:30 a.m.
worship service

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Annual Meeting Agenda

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday, January 22, 2023 @ 10:45 AM**

1. Call to order – Beth Melgren, Outgoing Council President

Determination of quorum

Opening prayer - Pastor Orin
2. Approval of Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2022
3. Announcements
4. 2023 Budget approval:
 - a. Messiah Lutheran Church
 - b. Messiah Lighthouse Child and Family Development Center
5. Endowment Committee Elections – Paul Melgren
6. Approval of editorial amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions
7. Adjournment

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Messiah Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2022

1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer**—Meeting was called to order by President Beth Melgren at 10:32 am. A quorum was declared. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Orin Cummings.
2. **Approval of November 14, 2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes**—Motion by David Siewert with second by Genny Maroc to approve minutes with no revisions. Motion carried.
3. **Announcements**—No corrections or additions to the *2021 Annual Report* were offered.
4. **2022 Budget Approval**
 - a. **Messiah Lutheran Church Budget**—The budget was made available in print (*2021 Financial Report*). Rex Johnson, chair of the Financial Support Committee, noted an error in the circulated Treasurer’s Report: the balance on the Thrivent Bank loan was corrected to be \$788,315.47. He pointed out that the budget being presented reflected a deficit of \$22,546. He stated that \$33,000 had been budgeted for the Director of Christian Discipleship (#71011), but plans for that hiring is uncertain. If there is need, funds will be expended from restricted fund #41227 which has been designated for payment of staff. With no objections offered the Messiah Lutheran Church 2022 Proposed Budget was approved by unanimous consent. (attached)
 - b. **Messiah Lighthouse Child & Family Development Center Budget**—The proposed budget was made available in print (*2021 Financial Report*). Rex commended the leadership of the Development Center on the exceptional job of budget management during the time of COVID-19. With no objections offered the MLCFDC 2022 Proposed Budget was approved by unanimous consent. (attached)
5. **Endowment Committee Elections**—Beth presented the council’s recommendation of Jason Weaver to serve another 3-year term and Chris Hoeman to serve an initial 3-year term on the Endowment Committee beginning in 2022. With no objections Jason and Chris were elected by unanimous consent to serve 3-year terms.
6. **Adjournment**—Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Donnell, Recording secretary

Congregational Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President Andrew Langr at 10:45 a.m.

The meeting is regarding the property adjacent to the Church at 2145 S. Kings which is for sale. We need to establish a quorum. We have a quorum with 98 attending.

Pastor opens with prayer.

There will be several presentations followed by opportunities for questions and discussion.

The proposal is to purchase the property at the corner of Kings and Seminole. A motion is made and seconded to purchase the property.

The first presentation discusses the historical relationship with the property and the plan for the church's place here in the community. This is given by Paul Melgren. In 1957 Messiah owned this parcel. It was sold early on, possibly prior to the first sanctuary being built. In the mid 80's the fellowship hall was built. In the early 2000's Messiah began seeking adjacent property to purchase so we could build the new sanctuary and be able to provide enough parking. One of the impediments to us growing is the need for more parking. Also, we would need to add storm water detention should we add more parking. This property is at the entryway to our church and previous tenants have provided a less than desirable appearance to the property. In 2017 the church owned 5 different properties. We have since sold some of those but are looking at other acquisitions, with an eye toward future expansion.

Wes Bowman discussed the property itself. Messiah has contacted the property owner regarding our interest in the property. Upon investigation, it was determined that previous tenants have been somewhat undesirable. We have entered a contract for \$197,500. This is high but so are rent prices currently. Wes arranged for a home inspection. It needs painting, inside and outside. We may try to salvage the hardwood floors. Lucy Stillwell has looked at the electrical and would be able to make necessary adjustments. Wes said if it is fixed up it should be worth \$10,000 to \$15,000 more than the asking price.

Dick Peterson discussed the church's financial situation. All figures are approximate. Our income through April was \$140,000 with an expense of \$133,000. For the first four months of this year, we are at +\$7,000. The budget for this same period: Income: \$144,000 Expenses: \$145,000.

Restricted funds: Total \$259,000. Future staffing: \$145,000; Operating funds savings \$47,000; Memorials \$10,000; Scholarship \$17,000; Thrivent choice \$10,000; Undesignated gifts \$30,000. So, some funds may be available from these restricted funds.

Nathan Carlson said there are some families who are willing to commit much to this purchase. Previously we purchased property with an arrangement that served the donors and the church well. There are a few options for this arrangement that would involve these current donors. Nathan doesn't see property costs decreasing any time soon. We currently have one rental property, a four-bedroom adjacent to the property under consideration. Initially this property could serve as part of Messiah's outreach to the community. We possibly could place Ukrainian families in there temporarily for example. Alternatively, we could create another Messiah house as the current one has paid for itself.

Question: How have our membership numbers changed in the past year? Answer: We don't have exact numbers, but it has decreased.

Question for Wes: Based on square footage, what do you think is a fair price?

Wes: We are at the top of the market, but if we want it for future expansion and to prevent undesirable tenants, we need to buy it now rather than later.

Julie Burnell: Wes did a great job negotiating this. This location is very important to Messiah, and we may not have access to it again. It is reasonable and within parameters.

Rex Johnson: I'm real concerned about this purchase. The church has not seen the growth we thought we would see. I think we need additional staff, rather than additional property. If the price goes up in the next five years, but our membership has gone up, we could possibly afford it then. Funds that we have in reserve are due to our expenses having been decreased in the last few years due to decreased staff. I don't think we need to be property poor and staff poor as well.

CJ Hankins: I have questions about what was inspected.

Wes: The inspector did it as if an individual was buying this house.

CJ: Due to the age of the house there is potential for asbestos and lead based paint.

Wes explained a few concerns and expressed the need for remodeling and painting. He feels a few people could take care of these concerns in a short amount of time. He has no figure for these expenses but feels it would fall around \$5,000.

CJ: The Finance Committee has made concerted effort to maintain the church in the positive column and we are able to do that since our expenses have been low. We need to be careful with what we do with these restricted funds.

Julie: Reiterated comments by Wes. Would be helpful to know what would be provided by these donors mentioned by Nathan.

CJ: Wouldn't it be smarter to use restricted funds for paying down our current debt?

Charles Hill: House has a great foundation. Roof in good shape. Insides are dirty but that's purely cosmetic. In the furnace closet they have ¼ inch asbestos panels. This is not the kind that is an issue. There's no reason to remove it. What is really critical is, when we developed the master plan for this church, and how we want to expand our mission and structure, we cannot expand, due to City requirements, unless we can obtain this property for water retention in the future. We need to acquire the property when we can get it. We could possibly sell Messiah house property and relocate it to the property we are discussing. We are at a turning point for this parish. Are we going to grow and expand or are we going to just maintain and start declining?

Wes: If we finance the full amount, we would break even on rent.

There is a motion to call the question. Is there a second? This will bring the discussion to an end.

Rex: We are being asked to vote on something when we don't have any idea of what will actually be contributed. We need more information.

Pastor: We are talking about \$30-40,000 donation. A family has also offered to purchase the property and is willing to work with the church on a repayment plan without interest. The church would have to pay \$157,000 over the years it is financed due to the offered donation and the proposed lack of interest.

Julie: With what Pastor has said, we are looking at a payment of around \$900 / month where rent could be around \$1300 / month.

Vote to call the question. Passed

Motion: Council recommends that Messiah purchase property at 2145 S. Kings Street, Springfield, Mo. 65807.

Count is taken from a show of hands. For: 85 Opposed: 4

Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn. Second. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Carleton, Council Member

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2022**

1. **Call to Order**—Mary Keidle, Council Secretary, called the meeting to order at 10:46. A quorum was easily declared present.
2. **Opening Prayer**—Pastor Orin offered an opening prayer.
3. **Elections for 2020**
 - a. **Council Members—Motion** made by Bill Roark with second by Lynn Carlton to elect by acclamation. **Motion** passed.
 - a. 1-year term: 2023-2024—Vince Johnson
 - b. 2-year term: 2023-2025—Dee Parker
 - c. 3-year term: 2023-2026—Charles Hill, Martha Morris, Frank Noto, Marcie Rosenkoetter
 - b. **Synod Assembly Voting Members—Motion** made to elect by acclamation the following as voting members to the 2023 Central States Synod Assembly: Peggy Shelton & Vic Shelton. **Motion** passed.
 - c. **Nominating Committee** (4 members plus 2 outgoing council members)—**Motion** made by Angie Myers with second by Lynn Carlton to elect by acclamation the following as members of the nominating committee: Scott Estrem, Michael Hoeman, Carolyn Malcolm, Cathy Murrell. **Motion** passed.
4. **Adjournment**—Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Nominating Committee Members (for 2023 ballot)

- Scott Estrem
- Michael Hoeman
- Carolyn Malcolm
- Cathy Murrell
- Out-going Council Member
- Out-going Council Member

Congregation Council Members

1-year term (2023-2024)

- Vince Johnson

2-year term (2023-2025)

- Dee Parker

3-year term (2023-2026)

- Charles Hill
- Martha Morris
- Frank Noto
- Marcie Rosenkoetter

2023 Synod Assembly Voting Members

- Peggy Shelton
- Vic Shelton

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Donnell, Recording Secretary

Council President Report

Dear Messiah Members,

Looking back at 2022 we have much to be thankful for. While the journey out of Covid restrictions had begun, we still had a way to go. Easter saw the beginning of in-person social hours with the Youth continuing the tradition of hosting a congregational breakfast. We also resumed our practice of administering Holy Communion at the altar. These steps allowed us to return to a new sense of "normal".

Our in-person worship numbers slowly returned to pre-pandemic levels and one of the unexpected benefits was the development of our on-line worship capabilities, which reaches an ever-expanding audience. Through all the struggles we have faced, Messiah has stayed true to our mission. Your financial support has allowed us to make needed changes in the sanctuary to live stream services and improve the quality of audio and visual technology, in addition to improving our security system to keep all who use our facility safe.

Sunday School for both adults and children began again, what a welcome sight to see children running the halls of Messiah again. With this came a return of First Communion and Confirmation classes. What a joy to have Christmas filled with all types of music from all ages, we truly have so much to be thankful for.

Our commitment to our mission led us to the decision to purchase the property at 2145 S Kings in order to house a Ukrainian refugee family. With the help of many hands we now have successfully housed a family allowing them a warm, safe roof over their head and allowing the children access to school.

I am honored to have served as council president, and blessed to do so with an extremely resilient and dedicated Pastor and council members. This past year we encountered challenges with relocations and illness and leaned heavily on each other to continue the mission of Messiah.

Blessings,

Beth Melgren, Council President

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean
not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Pastoral Report

Many of us are eager to declare the pandemic over. But is it? Life may appear to be like it was prior to the pandemic but that is deceiving because there are thousands of new COVID-19 infections and related deaths each day. The virus is endemic. Therefore, we are managing in this season of COVID by keeping up with vaccinations, mask-wearing, and physical distancing if one tests positive for the virus.

Your partnership and love during the pandemic, means a lot to me. You have shown me that "there is no fear in love" (1 John 4:18). Therefore, by loving the neighbor, we have created safe space for everyone to advance the gospel.

Also, your encouragement and hope inspire me to greater faithfulness as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament. Yet, that is only part of the pastor's workload. It is becoming clearer to me now that COVID restrictions are behind us, that familiarity with the culture is expected although it is not always obvious or transparent. Therefore, my office door is always open to members for walk-ins, and I am receptive to your advice or counsel. As seen in Jesus' approach to John the Baptist at the Jordan River, encouragement and approval are always welcomed albeit not always earned. A daily reminder that each of us live by grace.

Speaking about grace, over the past year we were challenged to respond to Ukrainian refugees arriving in our area. We rose to the occasion and provided a home for a family of four. How we got there is truly a story about God's work in our midst.

It began when the property at 2145 S Kings Street became available. A devote and generous couple in our congregation paved the way for us to purchase the said property by providing a no-interest loan which we accepted. We went ahead and purchased the property with assurances from some members that they would make generous contributions. They kept their word, but we still need your contribution to pay back the lender in accordance with loan terms.

Shortly after the property was purchased, we seized the opportunity to house Ukrainian refugees. Work on upgrading the property began with many members pitching in. Furniture, appliances, and household items were donated. A family was identified. An agreement was signed with Bread of Life Slavic Church, and a family of four moved into the house. In addition, a support committee was identified to help this family transition into the culture.

Today, I am pleased to report to you that this family is thriving on account of our love for God. "This is how God's love is shown among us: God sent the Son into the world that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). Love for God is shown by loving the neighbor, a Ukrainian refugee family.

Looking ahead, worship shapes who we are as people of God. We worship on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and offer casual, traditional contemporary services. Yet, this means nothing if what we do in our church home remain within its walls. So, we leave worship to live out the gospel in the community.

I want to encourage you to remain steadfast witnesses both in word and deed. Let us help each other to keep the redeeming love of Jesus alive in Seminole/Holland neighborhood through the Neighborhood Association, partnership with Holland Elementary, and relationship with neighborhood churches.

Springfield is a healthier place when we continue our commitment to Council of Churches of the Ozarks (Crosslines) for this work bears good fruit e.g., Messiah House. Helping single women to reenter society and build their lives as strong independent women, is a special and fulfilling ministry. This is the gospel that offers and inspires hope in the community.

Of course, it is not all rosy since we need a Youth and Family Minister, more meeting space, storage, and Daycare sustainability. Our search continues for a Youth and Family Minister and at the same time we have applied for an intern. This is not a permanent solution although it can be a means to an end. We eagerly await a decision from Wartburg Theological Seminary and will know without a doubt in March. If we are assigned an intern, that individual will begin in the summer and will be with us for 12 months or longer depending on their program. We will need to assist with accommodation and living expenses but that would be a small price to pay for leadership and more importantly assist in preparation of an ecclesiastical leader for the wider church.

Next, we could improve the appearance of our property line and by that, I mean the Dollison house. Currently, it provides storage for the church and Daycare, but we must do a much better job by intentionally boosting curb appeal. Fixing this will force us to address the storage issue and hopefully provide for the church bus too.

Finally, improving meeting space is not a simple fix because it will require careful thought, planning, and funding. However, heavy use of our facilities makes this a worthwhile undertaking.

Pastoral Duties include, but not limited to, the following:

Once a month, with assistance from Irene Chaloupecky, I conducted worship and administered Holy Communion to Waterford Senior Living residents at Ironbridge.

Holy Communion to homebound with Vickie Donnell, Irene Chaloupecky, & Barbara Hover	47
Baptisms	6
Marriages	2
Funerals	6
Hospital visits	12

Finally, thank you for your partnership in the gospel, especially

- Beth Melgren, president
- Councilors
- Vickie Donnell, recording secretary for council
- Pastor Linda Bollenbach for conducting worship during my absence
- Marilyn Boston, Organist
- Healing service anointing ministers Marcie Rosenkoetter, Vickie Donnell, Nancy Hoeman, and Jean Bardy
- Prayer Team
- Shepherds
- Karen Bowman, Contemporary Music Coordinator, and substitute accompanist
- Altar Guild, Flower Committee, Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Lectors, Cantors, Revelations Praise Band, and volunteer AV Techs
- Morgan Benedict and Michael Kelly, AV Techs

- Terry Denham, Susan Spaethe, Pat Lindquist and Nancy Hoeman for altar linen, banners, and skirts for Christmas trees
- Nathan Carlson, Business manager
- Sydney Marsh, Office Administrator
- Terry Michael for technology maintenance and upgrade
- Sydney Marsh and Cathy Carleton for keeping website and Facebook up-to-date and running smoothly
- Office volunteers, especially Annetta Svagera and Cathy Carleton
- Kurt Parker and Missy Fite, Janitors
- COVID Task Force
- Piecemakers and LWR groups for quilts and kits
- Committee chairs and event coordinators, especially Irene Chaloupecky for Funeral Socials, David Siewert for God's Work Our Hands, Jean Bardy for arranging for the hanging and taking down the Greens, and Rachel Bergin and Karen Bowman for Christmas Program
- Sunday School leaders, Tara Melgren and Katie Dogwiler, and teachers, and Confirmation teachers, Dennis Hoffman and Chuck Ryen, especially Susie Rucker as Christian Education coordinator
- Rachel Bergin for Wee Ones and God's Kids, Sydney Marsh for Cherub Chimes, Mark Herron for Cherub Bells, and Lucy Stillwell for Joy Ringers
- Daycare Advisor Board and staff
- VBS coordinator, teachers, assistants, and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Bud Schwab, Wes Bowman, Kurt Parker, Lucy and Larry Stillwell, Colleen Prosser, Mark Herron, Jim Rucker, Tom McConnell, Don Bloomberg, Paul Melgren, Charles Hill, and the late Dick Peterson for odd jobs and maintenance of property
- Earth angels Mary Keidle and Jim Rucker
- Eagle projects by Christian Bellamy, Zach Hudson, Samuel Cummings, and Ryan Dillion

While there remains uncertainty about Covid-19, one thing is certain and that is, we are God's living stones that share the message of hope in times of hardship, peace in times of war, joy in times of sorrow, "because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Pastor Orin

Mutual Ministry Committee

In affirmation of its commitment to mutuality in building up the body of Christ and carrying out the mission of Messiah, the Constitution provides for a Mutual Ministry Committee. The term 'mutual ministry' recognizes that the Church's ministry is the mutual concern and responsibility of both the laity and the pastor—everyone participating according to the gifts given to them and the ministries entrusted to them.

Keeping Messiah's mission as its focus, the members are intentional in challenging the congregation to work as a whole while bringing encouragement to everyone's ministry—Pastor Orin's and Messiah's members. The primary work of the committee members is to listen, encourage, communicate, and recommend—serving as a 'sounding board' for Pastor Orin on ideas, goals, and concerns and a 'listening post' for members of the congregation. Building community is always the priority with ongoing consideration for the spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing of all.

During 2022, the committee met as a group monthly with members available to Pastor Orin personally to support his leadership in Messiah's ministries. Conversations with members of the congregation are always welcome as we seek to best share our gifts, ensuring that Messiah is everything that it can be as we are called to carry out the work of Christ in our congregation, our community, and our world.

In 2022 Vickie Donnell and Nadine Melgren completed two-year terms. Joy Ward and Carolyn Gerdes will join this committee in 2023.

2022 Committee Members:

Pastor Orin, Jack Dimond, Vickie Donnell, Alex Hover, Lisa Melgren, Nadine Melgren, David Siewert



Messiah Shuttle

We need to use the Shuttle more often as the batteries are losing charge. We did use it to look at Christmas lights this past year. Hopefully in early 2023 we can begin a ministry to pick up those no longer driving and bring them to Messiah for Sunday worship.

Wes Bowman

Messiah Lighthouse Report

Messiah Lighthouse Child and Family Development Center (MLCFDC) has served children and families in the community for 13 years, since opening in October 2009. The mission of Messiah Lighthouse is to provide quality childcare in a Christian environment, with a focus on strengthening families through community support. Messiah Lighthouse is licensed to care for children six weeks to six years of age and has the distinction of being one of only 13 childcare facilities in Greene County to achieve accreditation through Missouri Accreditation for Early Childhood Education.

MLCFDC operates in partnership with the Lighthouse Child and Family Development Center. Through this partnership, MLCFDC contracts for the services of our Center Director, and received financial support for the position of Family Support Coordinator as well as support for professional development for staff and coverage of expenses for onboarding of new staff members. As an organization, Lighthouse also operates a childcare center in partnership with Life 360 Church at The Fairbanks. The Lighthouse Executive Director, Liz Hahn, provides administrative expertise, grant writing, and leadership support to MLCFDC. The Lighthouse program funding that supported the above operations from its inception was provided through the Musgrave Foundation. In mid-2022, the Musgrave Foundation concluded its financial support, and efforts are in place to identify other sources of funding beginning in 2023.

The childcare industry has faced numerous challenges in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and these issues were highlighted in a series of reports in 2022 by the Springfield Daily Citizen (<https://sgfcitizen.org>) and KY3 News, accessible on the respective websites. The series noted that about 700 local childcare spaces have not reopened, and most centers currently operate at 50-60% capacity because of staffing shortages due to multiple factors including low salaries. Reporters from both organizations visited MLCFDC and interviewed center director Jessica Phillips. MLCFDC is currently at approximately 60% capacity with enrollment of 23 children, and two classrooms have been combined until additional staff can be hired. Despite reduced enrollment, support from the state Office of Childhood has helped with expenses, as subsidy payments this year were based on eligibility rather than attendance, and American Rescue Plan Act funds provided staff retention bonuses.

The center leadership includes Jessica Phillips, Center Director since December 2021. Leslie Donegan, Family Support Coordinator, began her position at MLCFDC in February, bringing a background in both social work and early childhood education. Melody Farabee, lead infant teacher and assistant center director, has been with MLCFDC since 2009. During 2022, we served an average of 20 families per month. Approximately 30% of families enrolled are eligible for tuition subsidy from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Childhood.

The MLCFDC ministry benefited from the support of the congregation and community in numerous ways in 2022. Special appreciation is expressed to the following:

- An order was placed for new daycare playground equipment designed for children aged 5 and under, thanks to a Messiah Endowment Committee grant of \$11,000. Additional funding toward the installation, planned for early 2023, was received through a grant from the Missouri Office of Childhood and a gift from the McKinley Family Foundation.
- Liz Hahn, Lighthouse Executive Director, for administrative support during the maternity leave of Jessica Phillips, Center Director.

- Carolyn Malcolm, Peg Shelton, Irene Chaloupecky, and Barbara Hover for service on the Tuition Assistance Committee to review and approve applications for short-term assistance with tuition for families experiencing financial hardship
- Colleen Prosser, Mary Keidle, Bud Schwab, and Charles Hill for assistance with facility maintenance and repairs
- Nathan Carlson for assistance with financial and administrative functions
- Pastor Cummings, Vickie and Ed Donnell, Terry Dunham, Mark Herron, Charles Hill, Mary Keidle, Kurt Parker, Peg and Vic Shelton, Bud Schwab, and Joy Ward for setup, preparing and serving the meal for the MLCFDC family Christmas dinner and celebration
- Cathy Carleton for assisting with program assessment and exploring grant funding opportunities
- Messiah Lutheran congregation members who provide support to the center through prayer and regular giving.
- Pastor Orin Cummings, Dennis Hoffman, Charles Hill (Council Representative), Nancy Hoeman, Joy Ward, Jason Weaver, and Mary Keidle (Finance Team representative) for service and guidance as members of the Advisory Board

As the new year begins, the MLCFDC Advisory Board and leadership look forward in faith to the future of this important and special ministry of Messiah. Current childcare needs in the community are changing with expansion of public pre-kindergarten programs, and there is a great unmet need for infant and toddler care. In response to this trend, it is necessary to re-evaluate our classroom configuration with the idea of expanding capacity for younger children. Staffing is a critical need; we cannot meet the current community needs or fill our licensed capacity without additional staff.

Many Messiah members are involved in the MLCFDC ministry as mentioned above. You are invited to participate as well. If you would consider helping minister to children and families as a volunteer or paid staff, your inquiries are welcome! As Charles Hill notes, "Besides, kids are a lot of fun (most of the time)."

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Hoeman on behalf of the MLCFDC Advisory Board

Business Manager Report

Not much has changed with the business of Messiah in 2022.

Messiah Lighthouse Child and Family Development serves youth and families of the community in a very unique way. The Director at the helm of Messiah Lighthouse, Jessica, has assumed several tasks so I have more time to dedicate to both Messiah and Messiah Lighthouse business needs. We have given many families the chance to improve their lives in many ways. We have added strength and dedication to families and staff of both Messiah and Messiah Lighthouse Child Care.

The operations of Messiah continue to support the many Ministries of the church locally, regionally, nationally, and worldwide. Our support has reached so many areas across the region and the globe as we support the ELCA missions, on a monthly basis.

This year Messiah has done even more with the surrounding community. We have had several projects that involved the entire Seminole-Holland Neighborhood. We have shown ups and downs in giving support and volunteer support. Messiah House is a very special Ministry of Messiah helping homeless women get a new start. We purchased 2145 S. Kings with the help of many who donated to that purchase. It is now the Ukraine Refugee Ministry House with a family of four. It is supported by donations from many in the congregation. We are currently planning to use the 2125 S. Kings house as another Ukraine Ministry House. It is being supported from donations. We have teams that regularly work on projects that involve the House Properties and the Church Properties. The House Property Committee met several times to evaluate these properties and their support of Messiah.

The financial strength of Messiah has maintained and grown this year. The staff and volunteers have done very well at assuring we can sustain the Ministries of Messiah by dedicated planning and funding support of the many programs we offer daily. Support has met the spending needs. We budget for the ministries of Messiah that we strongly need to be funded. With many new needs and plans for the coming year, it will be a challenge for us all to meet these opportunities with giving and support.

A special Thank You to the members of the Financial Support Committee. Their guidance and support has allowed me to handle the many new changes of the business of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Messiah must continue to grow in Ministries and support. We as a Church can do much more to reach those in need as well as continue to provide for our members and friends in their daily needs. We must always challenge ourselves to do more for those that have less.

Serving in Christ.

Business Manager, Nathan Carlson

Office Administrator Report

This past year has been a year of adjusting to our "new normal". Guidelines are ever changing, and numbers are still fluctuating. Services continue to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. Traditional style is the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month; while Contemporary style is the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Holy Sacrament is available at all services.

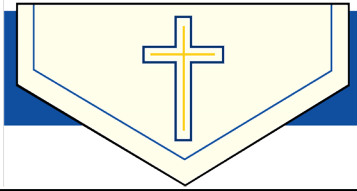
A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped keep the office running this year. Those volunteers are: Marilyn Dial, Martha Morris, Carolyn Malcom, Vickie Donnell, JP Szesny, Ileen Kendall, Cathy Carleton and Annetta Svagera. Annetta is still in the office both Wednesday and Fridays working on the attendance, keeping prayer list up-to-date, and consolidating our membership history into one place for the future. Cathy Carleton is now in the office on Tuesdays to help with anything that is needed and work on projects for the church.

My job could not be successfully done without the continued help and guidance of the many individuals who are dedicated to this church and its membership (I hope I haven't left anyone out).

- Pastor Orin
- Nathan Carlson
- Current and Previous Church Council
- Committee Chairs
 - Nancy Hoeman, Altar Guild and Lighthouse Advisory Board
 - Peggy Shelton, Flower Committee
 - Susie Rucker, Christian Education
 - Rose Hohbein, Congregational Care and Lutheran World Relief
 - Josh Dimmick, Endowment
 - Vickie Donnell, Evangelism
 - Martha Morris, Memorials
 - Lucy Stillwell, Parish Life
 - Linda Michael, Piecemakers
 - Karen Bowman, Revelations Praise Band and Youth and Family Committee
 - Marcie Rosenkoetter, Prayer Team
 - Wes Bowman, Messiah Shuttle
 - Colleen Prosser, Messiah House, Safe-to-Sleep, and Property Committee
 - Jean Bardy, Shepherding Teams
 - Mark Herron, Stewardship and Property Committees
 - Marilyn Dial, WELCA and Wine, Wit, & Wisdom
 - Dawn Gutierrez, Worship and Music Committee
 - Genny Maroc, Staff Support/Personnel Committee and Ukrainian Ministry

Our church is very involved in supporting many ministries and groups throughout our community. Some of these include: Messiah House, Holland-Seminole Neighborhood Association, NA, AA, Al Anon, Boy Scouts, and Crosslines.

Submitted by Sydney Marsh



Altar Guild

Messiah's Altar Guild is a ministry of volunteers who serve God and the congregation by preparing the sanctuary and altar for worship services. Each week, members of the Altar Guild prepare the chancel for the celebration of Holy Communion. The Altar Guild also cares for the paraments for each season of the Church year, the altar linens, communion vessels, and sanctuary furnishings including the processional crosses, acolyte's candlelighters, and baptismal font. Members select appropriate banners for each season of the church year, and prepare for special services such as Holy Baptism, weddings, and funerals.

Special thanks are expressed to two Altar Guild members who completed service in 2022: Sue Polly stepped back after several years of service, and Betty Wiles resigned mid-year in anticipation of relocating from Springfield. We welcomed three new members this year: Katie Dogwiler, Pat Lindquist, and Samantha Cummings.

Currently the Altar Guild is comprised of six teams who serve on a rotating basis: Terry Dunham and Susan Spaethe, Lisa Melgren and Katie Dogwiler, Cathy Murrell and Pat Lindquist, Linda Elliot and Linda Michael, Holly Marsh and Sydney Marsh, and Nadine Melgren and Nancy Hoeman.

The distribution of Holy Communion was returned to the altar rail during the past year. We are grateful to Joy Ward and Linda Michael for faithful service in baking the bread used for Communion.

A banner depicting water, created for the commemoration of the baptism of Jesus and used at baptismal services, made by Terry Dunham and Nancy Hoeman

A white banner for Holy Trinity Sunday, designed and made by Pat Lindquist with assistance from Cathy Murrell

A new Thanksgiving banner with a harvest theme made by Pat Lindquist. This banner uses a similar motif to an older banner which had to be retired.

A new Christmas banner entitled "Rejoice," with a dimensional poinsettia theme, designed and constructed by Pat Lindquist, assisted by Cathy Murrell

A tree skirt for the sanctuary Christmas tree with a nativity theme, designed and made by Susan Spaethe and Terry Dunham.

The Altar Guild would welcome inquiries from any member of the congregation who may be interested becoming a new team member; training and support are gladly provided.

Submitted by Nancy Hoeman

Worship & Music Committee

December of 2022 marked four and a half years since Dawn Gutierrez became our Worship and Music Coordinator, as well as the Senior Choir Director. Let's take a look back at some of the highlights from 2022...

Alleluia Singers had planned to meet again for the first time in January of 2022. Unfortunately the Omicron variant had reared its ugly head and prevented our adult choir from meeting once again. We would have to wait until things were safe again for our singers to start rehearsing.

February 16, 2022 marked the first time in two years that Alleluia Singers were finally able to rehearse and sing again! This was a HUGE blessing not only to our singers, but to our congregation! We had all missed this form of choral worship in our services and in our lives.

The Worship and Music Committee carefully worked together to plan for Ash Wednesday and the upcoming Lenten Season. Lenten Services were held every Wednesday. Before these services a Lenten Supper was held in Fellowship Hall. What a wonderful time for our congregation to finally come together once again for a meal each week.

March 2022 marked three years since we had begun using the worship assistant schedules created by Dawn Gutierrez. The worship assistant schedule is emailed to all volunteers each month. Reminder texts are sent out from Dawn every week to those worship assistants scheduled for that weekend. Dawn is extremely grateful this form of scheduling is still working for our church.

Our Music Ministries diligently worked to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Palm Sunday there was a dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative. On Maundy Thursday there was a beautiful Seder Meal for the whole congregation in our Fellowship Hall before service. Good Friday Worship was a Tenebrae Service. Easter Saturday Alleluia Singers offered their Easter Cantata. Easter Sunday worship was led by Revelations Praise Band but many other groups also participated in worship as well. It really was an outstanding way to end this blessed Holy Week.

On May 13, 2022 Messiah's Music Ministries came together to raise funds for Holland Elementary School. We raised over \$800 for the students of Holland Elementary. The very end of May marked the end of our choir year. Although we got off to a late start with Wee Ones, God's Kids and Alleluia Singers due to the omicron variant, these three groups were still able to create some beautiful musical offerings.

Dawn was pleased that the Worship and Music Committee once again decided on having just one Sunday service at 9:30am over the summer months. It has always been so nice to see the entire church worshipping together. Those who normally attended the traditional service then got a taste of the contemporary style of worship and vice versa. This summer schedule has always allowed for our mission statement "Welcome all to worship" to ring true!

Messiah's new musical series -Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God alone) was developed and created by Dawn Gutierrez. She started the new tradition of inviting a professional musician from within our community to join us quarterly in worship. Not only has this enriched the musicians within our music ministry that have had the opportunity to collaborate but it has also been inspirational and spiritually motivating for the members of our congregation.

Soli Deo Gloria Musicians:

June 2022- Tim Wootton - Trumpet

September 2022 - Andrew Baker - Oboe

December 2022 - Jacque Trtan- Cello

Fall of 2022 began the start-up for the Wednesday night Music Ministries after taking the summer months off. This ministry is mainly led by volunteer conductors. We are so blessed to have such a thriving volunteer-based Music Ministry here at Messiah!

Here are our groups and their directors:

Vocal Choirs

God's Kids- Rachel Bergin

Hand Bell Choirs

Cherub Chimes- Sydney Marsh

Cherub Bells- Mark Herron

Joy Ringers- Lucy Stillwell

Revelations- Karen Bowman

Wee Ones- Rachel Bergin

The "Eternal" (as Pastor likes to say) Marilyn Boston, our church organist, reports that the church organ continues to serve us with no problems. The Clavinova also continues to serve us with no problems even though it is almost 30 years old. The pianos are being well maintained and are used continuously for rehearsals and services. Throughout the year they have been used for accompanying, piano solos, and piano duets. The instruments are continuing to be used to help in the training of future church musicians.

September 2022 marked three years of having Morgan Benedict on staff as our Lead AV Tech. We have been so blessed to have him on staff, especially now in an age when we rely heavily on technology to reach our congregants at home. Morgan reports the AV team accomplished several goals this year that would not have been possible without the support from our church. Improvements have been made to live streaming, as well as projection and audio. We also added an assistant AV Tech, Kelly, who oversees the livestream for services. We had several members begin volunteering this year, including Lynn Carlton, and Holly and Sydney Marsh.

We are so blessed to have Karen Bowman leading our Blended services. Karen reports that 2022 began with a continuation of alternating Sundays between the traditional and blended worship formats which had begun in July 2020. It has been a joy to be able to return to leading the congregation in liturgical worship through the use of contemporary music.

Revelations is thankful for the technology support of Morgan Benedict. We could not serve the congregation in this ministry without his knowledge and expertise! Revelations welcomes anyone interested in sharing their musical gifts in this ministry. Even if your schedule only allows you to join us for a Sunday, a month, or a season, they would love to have you!

Current members of Revelations are:

Karen Bowman - keyboard, vocals

Scott Estrem - acoustic guitar, vocals

David Siewert - vocals

Nathan Schultz - electric guitar

John Svagera - bass guitar

Lucy Stillwell reports—Joy Ringers is the adult handbell choir at Messiah. We are a four octave choir with 12 ringers. We ring roughly once a month during the school year, with extra musical offerings during the special times of the year like Lent and Easter. This past summer we also prepared and rang a 30 minute program for Stepping Stones, a daycare for developmentally disabled adults. That was especially rewarding for our group. We also took part in a benefit concert this past year for Holland school. We feel blest to be part of the music ministry of Messiah.

The musical offerings in December designed to praise our Lord truly enhanced worship for all during the season of Advent. On December 17th at the 5:30 PM service Alleluia Singers offered their second cantata for the year. Many were involved in bringing this cantata to life. A huge thank you to Tom McConnell and Vickie Donnell for their wonderful narrations, God's Kids for their beautiful singing, Marilyn Boston for working so hard on the piano accompaniment and last but not least Alleluia Singers and visiting singers from the community for lifting their voices in praise to our Lord! Also a special shout out to Morgan and our Tech Team for all their hard work and attention to AV details.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent in December, the family and youth of Messiah led a beautiful Christmas Program in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Rachel Bergin led our youth throughout the program in wonderful music. The Revelations under the leadership of Karen Bowman and the youth of our church lifted their voices in praise to our Lord!

Our congregation had an opportunity to worship for Christmas Eve either at the 5 or 10 pm service. The 5pm service was geared towards families while the 10pm service was a more traditional service. Having the Joy Ringers ring during the 10pm service was such a joyous addition to this Christmas Eve service. Both services had a wonderful line-up of prelude music offered by our members. A big thank you to all that were involved in both of these Christmas Eve services!

Thankfully with the work from Marilyn Boston, Morgan Benedict, Karen Bowman, Dawn Gutierrez, all our volunteer based choirs, cantors, small vocal ensembles and guest musicians along the way, the music for 2022 has been kept vibrant, uplifting and inspiring. Dawn is looking forward to seeing what God has in store for Messiah's Music Ministries in 2023!

Worship and Music Coordinator – Dawn Gutierrez

Attendance

The following report is prepared to show the AVERAGE weekly attendance for each month, years 2013-2022. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

MONTH	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	166	139	156	87	81
February	190	136	168	90	121
March	185	152	131	108	126
April	213	234	—	145	190
May	188	155	—	80	125
June	170	151	—	91	119
July	159	126	84	82	120
August	167	145	94	110	141
September	173	165	97	105	116
October	170	156	93	103	159
November	174	165	94	116	143
December	171	171	89	121	170
Ash Wednesday	119	108	134	NR	91
Palm Sunday	155	164		103	187
Easter	351	341		131	299
Thanksgiving	68	57	42	45	85
Christmas Eve	343	342	111	137	249

All numbers are taken from reports turned in each Sunday. They may not be exact, but rather a guide. Numbers in either June or July are usually higher due to Vacation Bible School. Sometimes there are no numbers turned in, and in that case, I average the other weeks in that month to use a guide.

Submitted by Annetta Svagera



Evangelism Committee

We were blest that 2022 provided us the opportunity to gradually return to our pre-COVID activities. The Evangelism Committee continued to carry out its responsibilities to the congregation as summarized below.

- **Endeavor to bring new members to Messiah congregation.** *The most important work we do to fulfill this responsibility is to provide a meaningful welcome when visitors attend worship. To this end, we are indebted to those who faithfully serve as members of the Shepherding Teams—those who provide hospitality and facilitate the many 'behind the scene' activities that support worship. Those currently serving as Shepherds include: Jessica Atchison, Jean Bardy, Barbara Blaha, Debbie Corlett, Chris & Jayne Davis, Katie Dogwiler, Ed & Vickie Donnell, Terry Dunham, Scot Franson, Richard & April Gebken, CJ Hankins, Mary Keidle, Susan Lane, Bonnie Luder, Sydney Marsh, Beth Melgren, Kurt & Dee Parker, Bill & Becky Roark, Mike & Faye Hudson, Bud & Jane Schwab, and Jolynn & JP Szesny. We continue to provide a welcome token and a follow-up personal message for all visitors to worship. Messiah was surely blest to welcome the following into Messiah membership during 2022: Don & Brenda Blumberg; Melissa Gambriel Carlson; John & Linda Charles; Ken Chumbley and Penny Gordon-Chumbley; Jeff & Melissa Davis; Jack, Jana, & Nora Dimond; Ken Edstrom & Marty Gentry; Sarah Gunion; Adam, Brandi, and Nora Murr; Frank Noto; Nathan Schultz; Kip & Kris Scott; and Myril & Billie Stewart. We are thankful that many of these new members are sharing their gifts and already immersed in Messiah ministries.*
- **Facilitate immersion of new members into the life of Messiah congregation.** *Opportunities for service are discussed with new members and committee members follow up with individuals to ensure they are welcomed into the Messiah community. Remember that it is the responsibility of all members to reach out to those that are new to Messiah and invite them to participate in Messiah's programs and activities. Biographical information about new members, published in the **Spirit**, facilitates contact with those new to the Messiah community.*
- **Be attentive to members who have lapsed in their worship attendance and/or congregational presence.** *With COVID still in the community, but prevalence diminished, throughout the year it was good to see a continued increase in the numbers attending worship in person. As members, it is the responsibility of all to reach out to those you are not seeing in worship—give them a call and tell them they are being missed. We give thanks for the technology that allows us to provide virtual opportunities to worship via Facebook and YouTube. We are grateful for Morgan Benedict and Michael Kelly, our AV technicians, and for our AV volunteers, Drew Bowman, Lynn Carlton, and Elaine Novak. The committee supports the Congregation Council in carrying out its constitutional charge to "provide for an annual review of the membership roster". Maintaining accurate membership records is an ongoing challenge as members move from active to inactive membership, relocate without notifying the church office, or begin worshipping in another congregation, but do not seek transfer. As this is written, an effort is underway to reach out to those who have not been present for an extended period. We are thankful to Jeanine Siewert who made numerous phone calls in an effort to ascertain if these individuals still consider Messiah their home church. It is good to have accurate membership records.*
- **Ensure that appropriate congregational correspondence is on-going with prior visitors, members, and distant and prior members.** *Maintaining a current pictorial directory of Messiah's membership is an on-going challenge. As soon as it is published—it is outdated. We hope to have an updated edition of a directory, printed and on-line, early in 2023. While many members responded and were available to have pictures taken during scheduled opportunities late in 2022, many photos are still lacking. Communication will be forthcoming to those individuals. The monthly **Spirit** Newsletter (distributed via USPS) and weekly*

Midweek Announcements (distributed via e-mail) are the current correspondence methods. If you are not receiving either of these and wish to, notify the church office. Being a subscriber to **Living Lutheran** is the best way to stay connected to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the churchwide level. Messiah has a congregational subscription plan that provides the opportunity to subscribe at a reduced price. If you are not a subscriber and you are interested, contact Nathan in the church office. The ELCA is a church that values and encourages diverse voice and lively dialogue—you can be a part of that through **Living Lutheran**.

- **Seek ways to encourage Messiah members to be joy-filled, vibrant witnesses to Jesus Christ.** Again this year, the committee was able to have a presence at the September **God's Work. Our Hands**. We provided cold drinks, donuts and smiles for both those doing the work and members of the neighborhood who took advantage of Messiah's effort to clean up the Seminole-Holland neighborhood. Everyone is encouraged to participate in Sunday School, and the adult education classes and Bible Studies that are offered at Messiah. Learning more about who we say we are as Lutherans and 'being in the Word' surely strengthen our ability to witness for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The work of Evangelism is never done and it is work each of us is called to do. Reach out to those you miss seeing around Messiah, invite acquaintances and those you meet who do not have a church home to come to worship with you or share that Messiah is on Facebook and YouTube, and live a life using words and actions to share how you experience God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in your personal life.

Committee Members: Jean Bardy, Vickie Donnell, Rose Hohbein, Jane Schwab, Annetta Svagera

Flower Committee

Each Saturday/Sunday, the Altar Flower Committee uses fresh flowers purchased from Mears wholesale, to Praise God and glorify His word in the gospel with appropriate accents. Our ministry is made possible through the generosity of our members. Each vase requires a \$20.00 donation. We are also grateful to those who deliver these arrangements to those who are ill or housebound following services. At present there are only 6 on our committee and we are always interested in recruiting new members. One does not have to have a Green Thumb or a Botany degree, just an appreciation of beautiful flowers. A special Thank you to David Adams for his continued generosity of supplying us with beautiful flowers from his garden during the summer months.

Submitted by Peggy Shelton

Christian Education Committee

Christian Education Committee consists of members: Chuck Ryen, April Gebken, Jessica Atchison, Nadine Melgren, Rose Hohbein, Britt Bartels, Susie Rucker and our council Rep, Becky Roark. We met twice last year as getting everyone together to meet was challenging.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Education classes resumed on January 9th following the Christmas break on Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:30 am.

Ages 3-Grade 6 met upstairs in room 203 for Openings. The children sang songs based on the story of the day. The focus was on stories from the New Testament and the theme was YOU are a "piece" of God's plan. The kids were back to taking Offering and voted on 2 causes to donate to: The Humane Society and St. Jude. The children were then dismissed for class where they discussed the Bible story in depth and were involved with games and activities.

Confirmation I met upstairs in room 204 where they studied the Old and New Testament.

Confirmation II met with Pastor Orin where the kids focused on Luther's Catechism.

High Schoolers met upstairs in the Youth Lounge and held discussions on topics relevant to their lives.

The Adults met in the Sanctuary where they continued the curriculum "Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers."

Thanks go out to our teachers, which include: Nadine Melgren, Susie Rucker, Beth Melgren, Jessica Atchison, Louann Sherman, Tara Melgren, Katie Dogwiler, Rachel Bergin, Chuck Ryen, Dennis Hoffman, Faye Hudson, Cassandra Langr and Pastor Cummings.

The last day of Sunday School was May 22, with classes resuming in September.

There will be a search for a new Sunday School Superintendent.

MILESTONE MINISTRIES

First Communion took place on April 14 at the Maundy Thursday service following a Congregational Seder Meal. After having received instruction, Derek Brannon and Piper Jones received their First Communion. In the fall, Oliver Jones also received his First Communion. Thanks go out to Nadine Melgren and Linda Michael for instructing the kids.

Confirmation took place on Easter Sunday, April 17. Six young people were confirmed then. Andrew Bartels, Taylor Brannon, Cooper Colwell, Ryan Dillion, Connor Gebken, and Makayla Helmke were received into Messiah's fold. Thanks to Messiah's congregation for the gift of a study Bible and Michael Gunion for the wooden cross necklace.

On October 30, Confirmation took place for Drew Bowman, Nathanael Cummings, Niklaas Dillion, Daniel Everett, Morgan Johnson, and Grant Hudson. The following Sunday, a cake reception was held for these young people.

Teacher Appreciation took place on Saturday, April 30 with a dinner for teachers and their families.

Senior Recognition Sunday took place in May. Seniors in all walks of life were recognized. These included High schoolers: Jacy Carlson, Kelby Carlson, Landon Dillion, Hunter Helmke, Maddie Dimmick. College Seniors included: Ben Melgren and Tanner Hartman.

Vacation Bible School was August 7-11. It was in partnership with Prince of Peace. Many thanks go to Jessica Atchison and the volunteers who made it happen. The kids collected items to support two local refugee families from Ukraine.

Backpack and Back-to-School Blessings took place in August before the start of the school year. Kids of all ages brought their backpacks to be blessed at the service. Following service there were activities in the Fellowship Hall.

Bibles were presented to our 2nd graders on September 25. Those included were Waylon Atchison, Alexis Bergin, and Henry Ojeifo. The Bibles were a gift from the congregation.

Sunday School kicked off for the fall again on September 18. The theme was God Loves You S'more Than You Know. A Huge Thank You to Tara Melgren and Katie Dogwiler for heading up Sunday School for the kids this fall. Confirmation is meeting Sunday mornings in room 204 and adults are again meeting in the Sanctuary.

The Christmas Program was on Sunday, December 18th during the service. Rachel Bergin and Karen Bowman headed this up and along with the youth presented a lovely gift to the congregation.

All in all it was a successful year coming out of COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted, Susie Rucker

Congregational Care Committee

Purpose of this committee is to minister to those with physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in our congregation and community by showing them God's love.

This committee strives to fulfill our purpose and was involved in a vast number of activities during 2022.

Committee members: Rose Hohbein, Chairperson, Andrew Langr, Council Representative, (January through July), Marcie Rosenkoetter, Jean Bardy, Irene Chaloupecky, Marilyn Dial, Vickie Donnell, Nancy Hoeman, Barbara Hover, Carolyn Malcolm, Nancy Niewald, Pastor Orin Cummings.

Under Congregational Care are many Teams, including:

- Baptismal Anniversary Celebrations
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Cards and Notes Ministry
- Concerns for Members
- Educational Programs
- Flower Deliveries
- Funeral/Memorial Support
- Grief Support
- Healing Services
- Holy Communion and Visitation
- Meal Train*
- New and Expectant Parent Ministry
- Prayer Support
- Prayer Shawl & Baby Blanket Ministry
- Splash Mailings
- Stephen Ministry
- "Spirit" Articles
- Technology Ministry*
- Ukrainian Refugee Ministry*

*indicates new ministries added in 2022. Thank you, everyone, for your support for these ministries, that Offer Healing and Care to those in need.

Articles submitted for the SPIRIT in 2022, included:

- Reduce Your Risk of Falling
- Face Masks
- Immunity (vaccines, et. al)
- Home Safety, Part I
- Home Safety, Part II—Special Population (Children; Persons with Dementia)
- Brains
- ELCA: Race & Racism
- Five Ways to Care for Caregivers
- Birth Dates and Church Information/Emergency Contact Number for our Members
- Safe Walking for Exercise
- Medication Safety
- A Healthy and Safe Winter.

Submitted by Rose Hohbein, Chairperson

Lutheran World Relief Volunteers for 2022, included:

Cathy Carleton, Marilyn Dial, Vickie Donnell, Bob Forke, Mark Herron, Nancy Hoeman, Rose Hohbein, Mary Keidle, Ileen Kendall, Mark Krueger, Susan Lane, Mike Lane, Bonnie Luder, Angie Myers, Pat Lindquest, Nadine Melgren, Pauline Moeller, Cathy Murrell, Mary Nau, Nancy Niewald, Kurt Parker, Margaret Petersen, Sue Polly, Sheila Schaefer, Peggy Shelton, LouAnn Sherman, Alexis Shiklo, Betty Thomas, Joy Ward, and Norma Wiemer.

The names above are only the known volunteers who helped make it possible to send:

- 48 Mission Quilts,
- 119 Personal Care Kits,
- 100 School Kits,
- 108 Baby Care Kits,
- 5 Fabric Kits

to Lutheran World Relief this year. A total of 44 boxes was taken to the In-Gathering Site at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, MO, on Saturday, October 29th.

A big thank you to all those who donated their time, yarn, crochet thread, for quilts, flannel, gently used sheets and t-shirts to make our 2022 donation possible. A special thank you to the Endowment Committee for approving our request of \$2,000.00 to purchase all the new supplies needed to make the kits and to the Thrivent members who used Team Action Funds to work towards our 2022 goals.

Also, a very special recognition and "thank you" to Betty Thomas, who has faithfully been creating the beautiful quilt tops for Messiah's LWR Quilters. Betty has now exceeded making over 500 quilt tops for LWR!

2022 LWR Mission Quilts and Kits (including Messiah's) sent from: Mid-Missouri LWR collection at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, plus the greater St. Louis LWR Collection at Shepherd of the Hills in partnership with St. Mark's-Clayton, yielded: 1,335 Mission Quilts, 670 Personal Care Kits, 634 School Kits, 167 Baby Care Kits, and 45 Fabric Kits. All these Mission Quilts and Kits have now been sent on to the LWR Warehouse to be sent to offer care to those in need around our world. Please pray for those who will deliver these donations of love and most especially for those who receive them.

Submitted by Rose Hohbein, LWR Coordinator for Messiah

Endowment Committee

2022 Endowment Fund Year End Summary

Fund Balance (11/30/22)	492,263.25
Restricted	231,046.09
Withdrawals for Grants	35,200.00
Donations	10,737.45
Change in market value (1/1/22-11/30/22)	-86,215.81

The Messiah Endowment Fund experienced significant losses due to the weakness of worldwide equity markets. 2022 still saw over \$10,000 in donations, which was an above average year in the history of the fund. Average gains over the past five years helped push the grant award limit to over \$40,000 this year, of which \$35,200 was comfortably awarded. Grants this year included:

Resealing/outbuilding/drainage (capital)	5,000
IT updates (capital)	4,900
Handicap chairs (capital)	1,600
Projection computer (capital)	2,900
Holland T-shirts (community)	750
Holland school shoes (community)	1,000
Messiah House transition program (community)	1,550
Safe to Sleep (community)	2,500
Lighthouse playground equipment (community)	11,000
Lutheran World Relief supplies (mission)	2,000
Messiah Ukrainian Refugee Fund (mission)	2,000

The Endowment Committee feels that there continues to be an appropriate balance between the need to fund meaningful projects and the need for continued growth. The current gap between the fund balance and restricted funds (principle) is over \$250,000. This cushion is powerful in its ability to create additional funds, while at the same time, protect the original investments by congregational members.

Committee Members	Term expires
Josh Dimmick (Chair)	2023 (2nd)
Chris Hoeman	2024
Jason Weaver (Secretary)	2024 (2nd)
Jason Helmke	2023 (2nd)
Paul Melgren (Treasurer)	2022

Submitted by Josh Dimmick

Upon This Rock

Good progress continued to be made in 2022 to reduce the debt on Messiah's loan related to the expansion of the church offices and the new sanctuary completed in 2009. Monthly payments of \$8,687 were made and an additional principal payment of \$7,500 reduced the loan balance with Thrivent Financial to \$575,417.64 as of 12/31/22. This represents a reduction of \$95,513.82 in 2022. The Upon This Rock restricted reserve fund balance as of the end of the year was \$156,658.42. The Finance Committee will look at making an additional principal payment in 2023 if pledges and gifts to Upon This Rock continue strong and a 12-18 month payment reserve can be maintained.



We are thankful to everyone who has been generous through the years toward our Upon This Rock campaigns over the last 16 years.

The current campaign, Renewed in Mission, runs through June, 2024, and we welcome all members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church to participate in this ongoing effort. It is important that all gifts or donations to UPON THIS ROCK – Renewed in Mission be clearly marked as such so the funds will go for debt retirement and not for the operating budget expenses.

We continue as people called to share the Gospel in today's world – eliminating our building debt will enable us to expand and support the Messiah's many ministries. If there are any questions or concerns about Messiah's financial activities related to debt retirement, Rex Johnson would welcome your thoughts.

Submitted by Rex Johnson



Piecemakers

The Piecemakers donated 49 baby quilts and 27 adult quilts to local agencies. The quilts were given to Lutheran Family Service, Study Alternative, Newborns in Need and Veterans coming home. We have 8 active members and continue to meet the first and third Mondays of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Linda Michael

Staff Support/Personnel Committee

The Staff Support & Personnel Committee was formed in 2021 by the Council per the Constitution.

*C13.04. A **Staff Support/Personnel Committee** consisting of six (6) voting members (in the absence of a staff support committee their duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two (2) years, three (3) members to be appointed each successive year. Committee members will hold no other office in the congregation during their term.*

C13.04.01. A Staff Support/Personnel Committee has the responsibility for submitting recommendations on personnel policies to the congregation council. Such policies may address issues such as sick leave and vacations. It may be given the authority to hire and fire non-rostered staff members and to provide advice in the areas of training, employee benefits, employee relations, legal issues relating to employees, recruitment, interviewing, selection procedures and the like. The official call of rostered leaders addresses many personnel related matters, such as sick leave and vacation. It takes precedence over other personnel policies. This committee may be given the responsibility of reviewing the staffing pattern and of making recommendations regarding salaries and benefits.

The below members served terms and apart from Jean Bardy and Genny Maroc, have completed their service. We are incredibly grateful for the impact that they made in helping to stand up this new committee.

1-year term 2021	2-year term 2021 - 2022
Jean Bardy	Mark Herron
Marilyn Dial	Genny Maroc
Vic Shelton	Marissa Weaver

The committee appointments for 2023 are:

2-year terms 2022- 2023	2-year term 2023 - 2024
Jessica Atchison	Ed Donnell
Jean Bardy	Genny Maroc
Scot Franson	Nadine Melgren

The work of the committee has been primarily building the infrastructure for processes that will be ongoing to help make the organization updated, compliant and a great place to work every day. Work has been completed and ongoing:

- Advertised and filled open positions on the church side (office administrator, janitor)
- Employee Handbook updated & combined church and daycare into one document
- Developed and posted the opening for the Youth & Family Minister position
- Job descriptions have been updated and are being finalized
- Annual evaluation process is being finalized to be completed in early 2023

In Christ's Service, Jessica Atchison, Jean Bardy, Scot Franson, Mark Herron, and Genny Maroc

God's Work. Our Hands.

What a great turnout! You guys are amazing! Our 9th annual God's Work Our Hands was a remarkable success! The neighborhood was spruced up and we met some new folks. The preliminary Seminole-Holland Neighborhood Association garnered several new members.

Some of the stats: 55 vehicles dumped trash; 69 vehicles delivered yard waste (most of which was chipped for mulch; 21 cars deposited documents to be shredded. People donated \$295 to our efforts.

We had a great bunch of helpers including: Susan Lane, Carolyn Malcom, Orin Cummings, Samantha Cummings, Samuel Cummings, Nathanael Cummings, Tom McConnell, David Siewert, Mark Herron, Bud Schwab, Terry Michaels, Adam Melgren, Jim Rucker, Ed Donnell, Vickie Donnell, Sheila Schaefer, Paul Melgren, Scott Estrem, Mary Keidle, John Svagera, Rex Johnson, Becky Roark, Larry Stillwell, William Cooper, Richard Tettenhorst, Karen Bowman, Richard Daut, Drew Bowman, Dee Parker, Mark Krueger, Ken Edstrom, Ken Garbarino, Tom Wiswall, Wes Bowman, Bob Starr, Nathan Carlson, Sydney Marsh, Anetta Svagera and others I may have missed. Thanks so much to our volunteers.

Submitted by David Siewert

Holland Elementary School

Messiah provided for Holland School this past year:

- Coats and underwear as needed
- From Endowment funds -- \$1,000 for the shoe closet for students needing new shoes
- End of school lunches for teachers and staff

Submitted: Irene Chaloupecky

Memorials

The Memorial Committee is a group entrusted to acknowledging individual memorial gifts. We mail thank you notes to those who have given a donation to Messiah Lutheran Church in memory of members and friends. Nathan Carlson, the Business Manager, provides us with the information.

Our team includes Mary Nau, Anetta Svagera, and Martha Morris.

In 2022, Messiah Lutheran Church received 54 memorial gifts.

Submitted by Martha Morris

Ukrainian Refugee Ministry

Our message: You are welcome here.

It is beyond imagination what our refugee family has been through.

Leaving their home and possessions and most likely traumatized by their ordeal. There are still family members in Ukraine which causes worry and stress.

There were many hands and many hours of work to get the S Kings house ready for the family to occupy it in August. The house was furnished by many donations of furniture, household items and goods. The ad hoc committee of the Council handed off to the Support & Hospitality Team. In addition, many of you volunteered to help address various aspects of needs.

The Meet & Welcome Gathering was held in September. The identified as well as anticipated needs of the family have been addressed and are ongoing. This has been done with love, friendship, empathy, tact, and patience.

Here are some items of note:

- Acquiring warm clothing & shoes
- Tutoring
- Mentoring & being a friend
- 1-year family pass to the Discovery Center
- 1-year family pass to the Meyer Fitness Center
- Retaining counsel for the immigration process and expert advice

The immigration process seems slow. Until a response is received, they are not permitted to be employed. When the approval comes through, there will be assistance in finding employment. Please continue to pray for the family as well as those that are suffering in Ukraine.

In Christ's Service,

Jean Bardy, Scott Estrem, Charles Hill, Rose Hohbein, Loretta Knutson, and Genny Maroc
Support & Hospitality Team members



Stewardship Committee

For the year 2022 the Stewardship Committee completed the 2021 campaign to communicate committee functions to the church by providing monthly temple talks by committee members. The new 2022 campaign started with a stewardship campaign in October focused on giving. Support for this campaign is via monthly Spirit articles describing the various portions of the budget and how giving is used to support church activities and missions.

Mark Herron

Women of the ELCA

The Messiah women's organization has been active this year. We have three circles which meet monthly, two which read the Bible Study found in the Gather magazine, the official publication of the National Women of the ELCA. We recognized Bold Women's day and we provided a mid week Lent supper on March 30, a taco bar. We held a general meeting in May with a program on praying in color and we hosted an Ozark Mountain Cluster meeting. We sent a voting member to the Central States W/ELCA convention in Overland Park and several of our members attended the convention and contributed a basket for the auction. We took a Thankoffering which we sent to the National organization.

25% of our circle offerings were sent quarterly to the Central States W/ELCA. We also gifted 16 new member women with annual subscriptions to the Gather magazine. In lieu of our annual Christmas cookie exchange we invited the congregation to visit shut ins and take an ornament, plant or cookies with them. At our February meeting coming up we will vote on the recipients of our year end funds available.

We want to encourage all women of Messiah to participate in our Women of the ELCA activities whether they are active in a circle or find that they can only attend one of the various general meetings.

Marilyn Dial

Youth and Family Committee

The Youth and Family Committee coordinates youth and family activities and ministries at Messiah. Highlights of Youth and Family activities for 2022 include:

- Fundraisers to pay for Camp Tomah Shinga, ELCA Youth Gathering - Easter breakfast, flamingo flocking, concession sales at Springfield Cardinals games
- Family fellowship activities - mini-golf, bowling, game night, MSU football game
- Trunk or Treat - in conjunction with the Parish Life Committee
- Camp Tomah Shinga -Two youth attended
- ELCA National Youth Gathering - Although the 2022 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis was canceled due to COVID concerns, several youth chose to continue participating in the planned education sessions.
- The Loft renovation - New paint and a climbing wall!

Thank you to the congregation for continued support of Youth and Family ministries. We look forward to more activities in 2023. As always, we welcome any suggestions for programming and activities, and we are always looking for new members to join the committee.

Submitted by Karen Bowman

Property Committee

Highlights for the property committee this year were carpet cleaning and resealing/stripping the parking lot. This parking lot project was supported by a much-appreciated gift from the Endowment Fund.

Additionally, a house on Kings Avenue was purchased by the congregation as part of long term planning, however, an immediate need for the house as a home for a Ukrainian family was addressed by an ad hoc committee where several Property Committee members provided project assistance.

This Committee consists of a core group of volunteers and brought in other volunteers as needed for larger projects. Thank you to committee members and those who volunteered.

Mark Herron

Pub Theology

Pub Theology has continued to gather monthly through these interesting times. We have had some very interesting discussions on many varied theological issues. We gather monthly (4th Thursday) except for Thanksgiving (since it is on Thursday) and Christmas if the holiday falls close. We communicate via email each month to remind all of the time (7 p.m.) and place (Uncle Bentleys). You need to be on the email list to get the information. We send out the topic so all can be prepared to discuss. This is not a large group (4-12), but we always enjoy the time and conversation regarding faith-based theology. **Please be sure Nathan has your email if you are interested.**

Submitted by Nathan Carlson

Parish Life Committee

The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to provide fellowship opportunities to bring our church family together. 2020 and 2021 were challenging because of the restrictions of Covid, but 2022 brought more possibilities as Covid protocols relaxed. We were able to resume Lenten suppers and began hosting regular Sunday morning "coffee hours" following worship. We also had 2 summer Sunday morning breakfasts as well as cookouts and chili suppers with games. We continue to have 2 groups meeting for "Supper and Scriptures", a small group get together with devotions. We also had a great turnout for the Christmas dinner that followed the Sunday School Christmas program. We will be looking for more fellowship opportunities for the coming year. We regularly meet in the church office monthly the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30. We are always looking for more people to help plan and carry out activities, so you are welcome to join us. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely, Lucy Stillwell, Committee chair

Social Ministry

Holland Elementary School: Messiah members continue to support the teachers and programs of our neighborhood school partner. We provide funding for various needs through benefit music programs, lunch is provided for Teacher Appreciation in May and treats are provided for the children. COVID depleted our Reading Buddies program, and we currently only have one person continuing in that area of service.

Seminole/Holland Neighborhood Association: Messiah has served as a meeting location and members have played an integral part in creating this organization. They now have a website, organization bylaws and a Board of Directors. They participated in our neighborhood clean-up this fall and sponsored their first association activity in November this year. We look forward to continuing this worthwhile outreach.

Messiah House: This ministry for previously homeless women is in partnership with Safe to Sleep. It serves as what might be called a Phase II for those women who determine they are ready to do what is necessary to become self-sufficient, live on their own and be a contributing member of our community. It has proved to be quite a successful endeavor. Since this ministry is unique in Springfield, we feel it would be beneficial to share our model with other faith communities so they might increase the opportunity for these women to learn how to support themselves and no longer need the services of Safe to Sleep.

Crosslines: Messiah has served those in need in the food distribution aspect of Crosslines since it began. A small team of devoted members continue this ministry and now serve an average of 160 families on the second Thursday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The new Crosslines facility is planned to be ready in January and will be located on East Division. Anyone interested in serving in this ministry is always welcome to join our team in their efforts on any scheduled Thursday.

Lutheran World Relief and Piecemakers are groups that provide quilts, various care kits, baby blankets and prayer shawls for a number of ministries. Due to COVID, LWR became individual-based but we hope to bring it back into the church building soon so it will once again provide the benefits of fellowship.

Watch for the news of LWR meeting together once again. Piecemakers continues to meet the first and third Mondays of each month, 9:30 – 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall, to tie quilts which are distributed in our community each fall. If you can use a needle threader and sew a stitch, you are encouraged to join in this ministry.

Messiah Lighthouse Child and Family Development Center is new to this report. We are working to seek additional funding for this outreach ministry and will update you on our progress.

S. Kings House ad hoc Committee: This year we arranged and participated in the renovation and cleaning of the S. Kings House to prepare it for our Ukrainian family who moved in prior to the beginning of school this fall. They continue to reside there and are cared for through our Support Team. Due to completion of their assignment, this ad hoc committee was disbanded by Church Council during their December meeting.

Submitted by Cathy Carleton

Messiah Lutheran Church

Our Identity Statement:

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church is a worshipping community so firmly and confidently rooted in the Gospel, strengthened by God's love, mercy and grace, through Word, sacrament and Christian fellowship, that we strive to be God's witnesses through caring in our congregation, in the community, and in the world.

God Cares . . . We Care

Our Vision

Imagine...

A place open and inviting to all, welcoming those in need and searching for the Word of God.

Imagine...

A community of disciples, guided by the Spirit, learning to know the Lord, studying the Word and sharing the good news.

Imagine...

Laity and staff set free, caring and authentic, hungry for ministry, discovering their gifts, alert to the opportunities around them.

Imagine...

Excited youth, growing, learning, committed, filled with the possibilities of living life guided by the Gospel.

Imagine...

A congregation renewed and renewing, sustained by prayer, equipped through worship, alive to the Spirit, seeing Christ in every face- with all the resources necessary for growing ministries.

Imagine...

Wounds being healed, the lost being found, the hungry being fed, hope replacing despair and lives being changed.

Imagine... Messiah Lutheran Church!

Messiah's Vision Statement:

With God's help and guidance, Messiah will be transformed to welcome all to meet Jesus' renewing love, learn to live as His disciples, and develop their gifts to offer care and healing in His name.

Messiah Staff

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