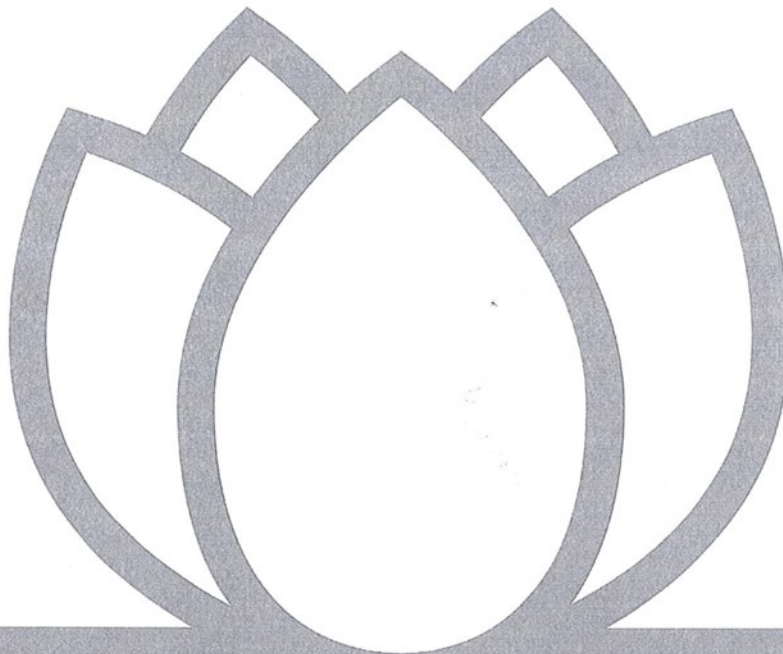




MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

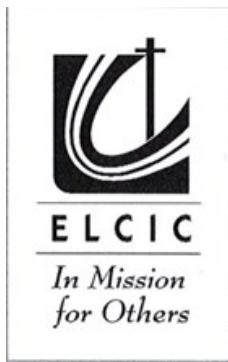
Sharing Jesus Christ with All People



Live Simply

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19



CONGREGATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT

2016—2017

To fulfill its mission as stated in the Constitution and in its mission statement, the congregation is guided by core values which it adopted on May 31, 2006:

God loves everyone.

Jesus is Lord.

We seek to be led by the Holy Spirit.

We rely fully on the Word of God.

God gives everyone gifts to share.

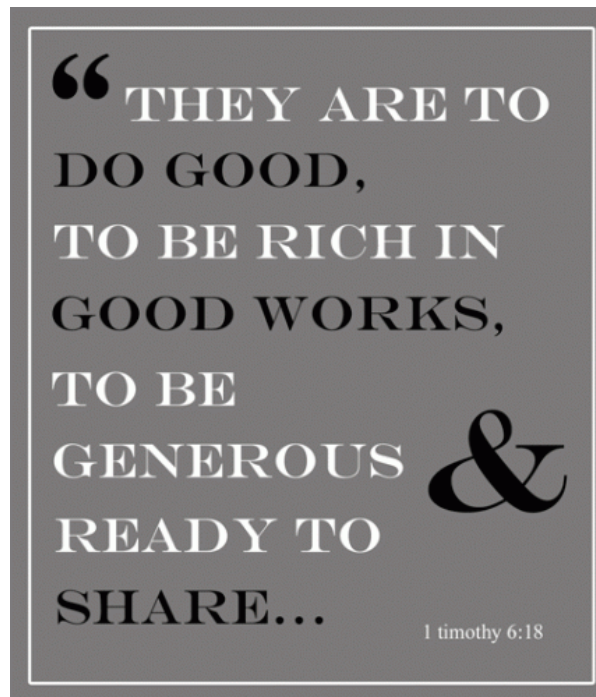


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A Message From Our Synod Bishop

January 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting.

When you gather together, know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel; and, that you continue to be in my prayers as I know I remain in yours.

When you meet together, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered leaders of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in relationships with your neighbours through your words and deeds and the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the Church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, *En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

At Conference Gatherings in October 2016, Synod Council shared what they have been hearing across our Synod through the two Participating in Hope gatherings in 2015 and 2016, and in the Synod Convention 2016 conversations and sharing. Synod Council gathered all the comments together and have expressed what was heard in four statements. These, along with comments received at the Conference Gatherings, will be further explored at Synod Council's March 2017 retreat and you can expect to receive correspondence from Synod Council soon after the retreat to update and inform you.

The four statements:

We are hearing you are desiring connection and relationship to experience God's love among us all.

You are eager to risk and test new ways but are concerned about how, and want to ensure we keep our essentials.

You want practical help in discerning what God is up to because you sense God is at work and present in so many ways.

This sense of God's acting presence is creating renewed desire to be communities of God's hope-filled people.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect on these four statements and our partnership together, as well as name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all gathered reflections on the following (I would be pleased to receive your comments in writing to forward to Synod Council):

- 1) In what way(s) do these four statements reflect our community of faith?
- 2) If we could make three wishes for the future of our Synod what would they be?
- 3) Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation experienced God's love.
- 4) What resources do you have within your community? Share three gifts God has given you.

As you meet, you might also prayerfully consider forwarding a tithe (1/10th) of your annual income as a congregation, as your minimal offering for Benevolence for the ministry of the Synod and through the Synod to the wider Church. Some congregations have exceeded this mark already, but I would encourage all congregations to set this goal.

And remember Paul's words to the saints in Philippi: *...sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8).*

My prayer is that your gathering will be a recital of gratitude and praise to God for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work in, through, around, and among you.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus-

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Agenda

Annual Congregational Meeting

May 28, 2017

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Odell Olson

2. Opening Devotions: Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson (back cover)

3. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

4. Review of Congregational Meeting Minutes

4.1. Annual Congregational Meeting of June 5, 2016

5. Consideration of Reports

5.1. Report of the Senior Pastor

5.2. Report of the Diaconal Minister

5.3. Officers' Reports

5.4. Reports of the Committees

5.5. Report of the Auxiliary

5.6. Other Reports

5.7. Congregational Statistics

6. Organizational Matters

6.1. Report of the Nominating Group and Elections

Installation of those elected on Sunday _____ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. The **Annual Planning Meeting** Phase 1: immediately after the Annual Congregational Meeting. (To compile contact information and elect Chair and Secretary of Committees) Phase 2: TBA This meeting involves all members of Church Council and Standing Committee Chairs: Learning, Service, Support, Witnessing and Worship.

7. Mission Endowment Fund

7.1. Interest Allocation:

Moved Seconded (from Council) that Mission Endowment funds for this year go to _____.

7.2. Panoptic Endowment Fund:

Moved Seconded (from Council) that Panoptic Endowment funds for this year go to _____.

8. Financial Matters

8.1 Motions for Borrowing Power

8.1.1. That any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer be authorized to borrow up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from a financial institution in Camrose, Alberta, for operating purposes and to execute the institution's form of note or notes in the name of Messiah Lutheran Church for a period of twelve months.

8.1.2. That any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer be authorized to borrow up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from a financial institution in Camrose, Alberta for the Building Fund and to execute the institution's form of note or notes in the name of Messiah Lutheran Church for a period of twelve months.

8.2. Motion for authorized signators for charitable donation receipts

That any one of the following be authorized to sign charitable receipts for Messiah Lutheran Church: 1) Norma Branes 2) Mary Broen 3) Bookkeeper 4) Treasurer 5) MLW Treasurer

8.3. Motion for Appointment of Auditors

8.3.1. That Messiah use an Internal Audit for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

8.3.2. That _____, _____ and _____ be appointed to the Audit Committee as auditors for Messiah Lutheran Church for the year ending April 30, 2018.

9. Motion for Signing Authority

That any two of the following be appointed to sign cheques for Messiah Lutheran Church: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

10. Financial Report and Recommended Budget

11. Motions from Council Regarding the Pastoral Ministry

11.1. That we call a second ordained Pastor.

11.2. That Council act as a Call Committee to compose a Letter of Call to Bev Swanson.

11.3. That a Congregational Meeting be called on June 18, 2017 to consider and vote on a Call to Bev Swanson.

12. Concluding Remarks

13. Closing Devotions: Pastor Calvin Skriver

14. Adjournment

Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday June 5, 2016

1. **Welcome and Call to Order:** Chair Odell Olson called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.
 2. **Opening Devotions:** Pastor Calvin Skriver opened with the devotions as printed on the back cover of the Annual Report.
 3. **Consideration and Adoption of Agenda**
CM 16:06:01 MSC (Elaine Taylor/David Stolee) to adopt the agenda as printed.
 4. **Review of Congregational Meeting Minutes**
 - 4.1 **Annual Congregational Meeting of June 7, 2015**
CM 16:06:02 MSC (Grant Skippen/Ruth Jensen) to adopt the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of June 7, 2015.
 - 4.2 **Special Congregational Meeting of December 13, 2015** (to call Pastor Calvin Skriver)
CM 16:06:03 MSC (Audrey Lett/Mary Broen) to adopt the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 13, 2015.
 5. **Consideration of Reports**
 - 5.1 **Report of Senior Pastor Calvin Skriver**
As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.
 - 5.2. **Report of Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson**
As printed in the Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.
 - 5.3. **Officers' Reports**
President Odell Olson thanked the Executive, Council and Committee Members for their dedicated service.
 - 5.4 **Reports of the Committees**
 - Learning Committee:** As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.
 - Service Committee:** Ray Blacklock reported that copies of the Samaritan Fund Financial Statements are available. The Samaritan Fund is based on the spirit of the Good Samaritan parable with the purpose of providing financial support to those with needs that have been brought to the attention of Messiah's pastors. This support may be used to aid people in need regardless of whether or not they are members of Messiah. Ray also reported that a garage sale held at Messiah by community members (June 3rd and 4th) was very successful and \$2,000 will be donated to Fort McMurray fire victims through CLWR. Ray expressed gratitude to those MLC members who made themselves available to be a Messiah presence at the sale.
 - Support Committee:** Ron Foshaug clarified that the list of expenditures for capital projects are not specific quotes and only estimates. Messiah always has ongoing building and property needs and the list included in Support's Report are only just some of them. People are invited to donate specifically to a project or in general to capital projects. During the Annual Meeting the Support Committee conducted a "chair experiment vote" to replace some chairs in the basement. Members who participated in the experiment voted that "yes" the chairs are comfortable!
 - Witnessing Committee:** Cece Watts announced that one of the upcoming priorities for the Witnessing Committee is to research the possibility of purchasing a new electronic sign to make Messiah even more visible and welcoming. The Witnessing Committee is in need of more volunteers for Coffee Fellowship.
- World Mission Group:* As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.
- Refugee Support Group:* Erhard Pinno spoke on behalf of the Refugee Support Group, distributed a document and made the following motion:
- CM 16:06:04 MSC (Refugee Support Group)** that Messiah Lutheran Church agree to sponsor Weini Abraham Gebreyohannes, Yohannes Bariagabir Mengistu and Heyabel Yohannes Tigrinya as a self-supporting refugee family conditional on receiving \$15,000.00

from them to the Refugee Fund and approval of their application by Citizen and Immigration Canada.”

(Erhard stated that this motion is in addition to the motion made at the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting that Messiah sponsor a refugee family so, in effect, the above motion (16:06:04) is to sponsor a second family.)

Worship Committee: Darlene Dahle highlighted the Committee’s appreciation for the many individuals and groups who put in a lot of time and effort to assist the Worship Committee.

5.5 Reports of the Auxiliary: As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.

5.6 Report of the Call Committee: As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.

5.7 Other Reports:

- Staff Reports as printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.
- Dale Swanson expressed thanks to all who support Hastings Lake Bible Camp.

5.8. Congregational Statistics: As printed in Annual Report with no further comments or questions from the Congregation.

CM 16:06:05 MSC (Betty Pearson/Dave Stolee) to receive reports as presented.

6. Organizational Matters

6.1 Report of the Nominating Group and Elections

Vice President Carolyn Andersen presented the Nominating Committee’s report and thanked the members of her committee: Don Myrehaug, Joanne Myrehaug and Eleanor Kopperud. Carolyn also thanked those contacted for considering a position. She noted that all positions except for three on the Service Committee have candidates. Carolyn asked for any further nominations and receiving none, the following motion was presented:

CM 16:06:06 MSC (Vi Madison/Cece Watts) that nominations cease and the Nominating Committee’s list of names be declared as elected.

President Odell thanked Carolyn and the Nominating Committee for their diligent work. *Odell also thanked Ray Blacklock for his service as Chair of the Service Committee for the last two years.*

Installation of those elected will be on Sunday June 19, 2016, at the 10:30 am Worship Service. The **Annual Planning Meeting:** Phase 1- immediately after the Annual Congregational Meeting. Phase 2 - September 15, 2016, 7:00 pm. This meeting involves all members of Church Council and all Standing Committees: Learning, Service, Support, Witnessing and Worship.

7. Mission Endowment Fund

7.1. Interest Allocation:

CM 16:06:07 MSC (Ron Foshaug/Grant Skippen) that the Mission Endowment funds for this year go to the Internet Outreach project proposed by the Support Committee.

7.2. Update on the new Endowment Fund (Panoptic)

Treasurer Ivar Saugen reminded the group that at the 2015 Annual Meeting we voted to establish a second endowment fund. He distributed a draft General Policy Statement outlining the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund that would enable unrestricted bequests and planned gifts to be received in support of ongoing missions.

CM 16:06:08 MSC (Ivar Saugen/Doris Skippen) to accept the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund document.

8. Use of Undesignated Memorial Funds

Currently any undesignated funds go to eliminating the debt.

CM 16:06:09 MSC (Council) that when the debt is eliminated, any undesignated funds go to the Capital Fund.

9. Policy of the Use of Funds to be instituted from this meeting onward (Ivar Saugen)

Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by Messiah. Should a donor choose to restrict a contribution for use in a particular program or project, Messiah will honour that restriction with the understanding that when need for such a program or project has been met or cannot be completed for any reason as determined by Messiah, the remaining restricted contribution will be used where most needed.

President Odell noted that Council has authority to approve the above statement but that Council wanted to communicate the statement as information for the congregation.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 Motions for Borrowing Power

10.1.1. CM 16:06:10 MSC (Mary Broen/Don Myrehaug) that any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer be authorized to borrow up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) from a financial institution in Camrose, Alberta, for operating purposes and to execute the institution's form of note or notes in the name of Messiah Lutheran Church for a period of twelve months.

10.1.2. CM 16:06:11 MSC (Erhard Pinno/Carol Cherry) that any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer be authorized to borrow up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from a financial institution in Camrose, Alberta for the Building Fund and to execute the institution's form of note or notes in the name of Messiah Lutheran Church for a period of twelve months.

10.2 Motion for authorized signators for charitable donation receipts

CM 16:06:12 MSC (Ioan Jobe/Audrey Lett) that any one of the following be authorized to sign charitable receipts for Messiah Lutheran Church: 1) Norma Branes 2) Mary Broen 3) Bookkeeper 4) Treasurer 5) MLW Treasurer.

President Odell thanked Norma and Mary for their continued contributions and Bookkeeper Sheila Becker for her excellent work.

10.3 Motion for Appointment of Auditors

10.3.1. CM 16:06:13 MSC (Erhard Pinno/Ivar Saugen) that Messiah use an Internal Audit for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

10.3.2. CM 16:06:14 MSC (Erhard Pinno/Ivar Saugen) that David Stolee, Max Lindstrand and Yvonne Myrehaug be appointed to the Audit Committee as auditors for Messiah Lutheran Church for the year ending April 30, 2017.

11. Motion for Signing Authority

CM 16:06:15 MSC (Lavona Broen/Nora Gilbertson) that any two of the following be appointed to sign cheques for Messiah Lutheran Church: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

12. Financial Report and Recommended Budget

CM 16:06:16 MSC (Erhard Pinno/Mark Skriver) to accept the Financial Reports as presented and approve the recommended budget.

President Odell thanked Treasurer Ivar Saugen and the Support Committee for the Financial Reports and Budget.

13. Concluding Remarks

14. Closing Devotions: On the basis of the liturgy on the back page of the Annual Report, Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson led in the closing devotions. We sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" to close.

15. Adjournment:

Chairperson Odell Olson declared the meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Carol Green, Secretary

Attachments:

2016-2017 Council and Committee Members
2016-2017 Budget
List of Voting Members Present

**Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
2016 2017 Council and Committee Members**

Church Council

President

Odell Olsonto June 2018

Vice-President

Carolyn Andersen.....to June 2017

Treasurer

Ivar Saugento June 2018

Secretary

Carol Green.....to June 2017

Members at Large

Darlene Dahleto June 2017

Jim Ofrim.....to June 2017

Sharon Gilbertsonto June 2018

Dave Larsonto June 2018

Art Pfeifferto June 2018

Learning Committee

Sharon Ofrim, Marie Olson, Margo McPhail, Cheryl Nester, Tim Schultz.....to June 2017

Alice Lindstrandto June 2018

Service Committee

Carol Cherry, Rod MacInnisto June 2017

Donny Loewen.....to June 2018

Support Committee

Ron Foshaug, Lois Larson, Dale Swansonto June 2017

Milt Gilbertson, Don Myrehaug, Gord Myrehaugto June 2018

Witnessing Committee

Lavona Broen, Erhard Pinnoto June 2017

Mary Ellen Eriksson, Shirley Loewen, Gail Stolee, Cecelia Wattsto June 2018

Worship Committee

David Dahle, Norma Ferguson, Laverne Hoveland, Elaine Olsonto June 2017

Nora Gilbertson, Gail Pfeifferto June 2018

Analysis of Messiah's Proposed Stewardship of its Proposed Resources 2016-2017										
					% of Total					
Salaries and Wages for Staff			\$280,000		66%	*Building/Capital				
						AV Capital			2,500	
						Custodial Supplies			1,000	
Program						Inspections/maintenance			5,600	
	Learning Committee		5,085			Insurance			16,000	
	Stewardship Plans		500			Repairs & maintenance			8,000	
	Service Committee		1,000			Utilities-electricity			10,000	
	Neighbor Aid support		1,200			Utilities-heating fuel			10,000	
	Witnessing Committee		200			Utilities-water/sewer			3,000	
	Worship Committee		4,300			Capital purchase/contingency			700	
	Total		12,285	12,285	3%	Capital Projects			3,500	
									60,300	
In Support of All Ministries - Support Committee										
	Synod		34,656		8%	**Office				
						Advertising			400	
	Building/Capital*		60,300		14%	Audio/Visual supplies			500	
						Audit			3,500	
	Office**		21,500		5%	Bank charges/op loans			300	
						Offering envelopes			500	
	General Ministry Support***		8,300		2%	Office equipment lease			5,000	
						Office library			200	
	Restore Designated gifts		8,000		2%	Office Supplies			5,000	
					100%	Postage & shipping			1,700	
Total			\$425,041		100%	Software agreements			700	
						Telephone			3,500	
						Website			200	
Check from Summary Page			425,041						21,500	
						***General Ministry Support				
						Chur Coun Miscellaneous			900	
						Conference Dues			1,700	
						Pastor's Study Conference			1,200	
						Counselling Supervision			900	
						Conventions			2,500	
						Staff/lay development			400	
						Volunteer screening			200	
						Staff retreat			500	
						Call Committee recruiting			0	
									8,300	

**Voting Members Present at the Annual Congregational Meeting
Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose, June 5, 2016
*Designates a Non-Voting Member (ie. Staff, President of Congregation)**

Carolyn Andersen	Signe Harder	Ann Reiten
Jane Arial	Cliff Hoyme	Art Reiten
Lois Aspenes	Dorothy Hoyme	Carole Saugen
Wilf Aspenes	Peggy Jensen	Ivar Saugen
Marion Bennett	Ruth E Jensen*	Doris Skippen
Jocelyn Bergh	Ioan Jobe	Grant Skippen
Norma Blacklock	Audrey Lett	Calvin Skriver*
Ray Blacklock	Lue Lindseth	Lori Skriver
Jim Brager	Dorothy Lysons	Maria Skriver
Marie Brager	Rod MacInnis	Mark Skriver
Norma Branes	Rod Madison	Berniece Sogge
Doreen Brewer*	Vi Madison	David Stolee
Ed Brewer	Ken Midbo	Bev Swanson*
Lavona Broen	Marion Midbo	Dale Swanson
Mary Broen	Don Myrehaug	Elaine Taylor
Charlene Brown	Joanne Myrehaug	Cecelia Watts
Susan Busch	Cheryl Nester	Bernard Williams
Carol Cherry	Jim Ofrim	Lorene Willing
Darlene Dahle	Sharon Ofrim	Wilf Willing
Arnell Dahlin	Ruth Ofrim	
Greta Dahlin	Carolyn Olson*	
Mary Ellen Eriksson	Elaine Olson	
Vincent Eriksson	Karen Olson	
Hazel Erga	Lloyd Olson*	
Lyle Erga	Odell Olson*	
Loretta Foshaug	Orlando Olson	
Ron Foshaug	Betty Pearson	
Nora Gilbertson	Art Pfeiffer	
Carol Green	Gail Pfeiffer	
Alice Haldorson	Erhard Pinno	
Karen Hanson		

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Pastor - Calvin Skriver

**They (all who believed) devoted themselves to
the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

Acts 2:42

Grace and peace to you from God: Father; Son, Jesus Christ; and Holy Spirit.

It has now been over a year since we began our ministry together. I give thanks to God for all of you. You have been supportive in word, action and in prayer. I continue to see vast evidence of your many and varied gifts. There is so much that God is and will be doing through us here at Messiah. God has chosen you to be a part of this community of faith – rejoice and be glad!

I encourage you to read through all of this report. It is lengthy, but outlines many of the great things that have been done in this congregation in the past year and what things we are hoping, with God's help, to accomplish in this coming year. We have done some wonderful things and, God willing, will continue with more wonderful things in this coming year.

This first year has been filled with a lot! I've been learning what our traditions are and how we go about doing things – and how I am able to fit into all of these workings. Thank you for your gracious patience with me as I learn and begin to add something of "me" into the flavour of Messiah.

Much of the spring and summer were spent visiting with people in small groups in homes. I began to learn names, I heard people's stories and people have begun to learn who I am and what my story is too. I must admit there are a lot of names to remember, so please encourage my work by sharing your name and something about you whenever we have a little time together. My office is open often, for people to come in and touch base. You are welcome to come when you can – I may very well be available for a conversation. 😊

While connecting with people, I have also tried to make connections with our congregational structure. Council meetings are of primary importance, but I have also tried to attend many of the committee and even "group" (sub-committee) meetings. It's not that I particularly like "meetings", but it is here that much of the work of the church happens and I like to be aware of what our issues are and how we deal with them. I am primary contact from our pastoral team to the Support, Witnessing and Service committees and the groups that report through those committees. Bev and I both attend the Worship committee meetings. I very much appreciate the devotion that people have to making sure Messiah Lutheran Church operates well and according to God's will. One of the great traditions that Messiah has cultivated is to begin each meeting with devotions (scripture and prayer) and "checking in" with each other.

I have also had opportunity to participate in a couple of "educational" events. During the Adult Study time last fall, we viewed and then discussed a video series where various contemporary theologians talked about "faith". Then, in early spring, I led a book study on how people have thought about the cross over the centuries and how what they have thought can be helpful for us as **we** try to make sense of what God has done through Jesus on the cross and in the resurrection. I look forward to more opportunities to enter into learning opportunities with you in this next year. If you have anything you wish to touch on, please let me know!

As part of my work with Messiah, I have been making connections outside the congregation as well. I participate in the Camrose Ministerial (currently as vice-chair) on a monthly basis. We gather to pray together and to discuss how we might work together as people of the risen Lord. We are currently having some difficulties, as people (even the people of God) so often do – please pray for this fellowship! I also am a part of PLURA – which is a smaller subset of the ministerial of the more “liturgical” denominations (Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Roman Catholic and Anglican) – where we join in worship together. This is usually during Lent, Easter Vigil and Advent. To round this out, I also gather almost weekly with a few clergy on Tuesday mornings to discuss the coming Sunday’s texts and to be mutual ministers with each other. I find this to be a most helpful group. One last “connections” time is the annual Study Conference held in Canmore. It is very good and helpful to touch base with other rostered workers from our synod and to listen to interesting (sometimes famous) speakers.

My connections outside Messiah also extend into other areas. I am currently sitting on the board of the Bethany Group which meets 3 or 4 times per year with some committee work as well. Bethany is an important part of this community and I desire to see this organization stay true to its Lutheran roots. I also take some time (2 or 3 meetings per year) to help the synod on the Constitutional Review Committee. Some may see this as boring, but I find that the way we organize ourselves is so important to being able to do good ministry. Finally, I served as Parliamentarian for the last Synod Convention.

Much of my time is spent in the office where I pray, read, prepare for worship services (Sunday and at places like Deer Meadows, Sunrise, Rosealta and Rosehaven), visit with people who show up at my door, phone (and return phone calls from) people like you, and deal with many little (and bigger) issues that pop up in the life of our church. It is wonderful to have people who provide great help in the workings of our congregation. Some are paid staff, many are volunteer. I give thanks to God for all of you.

In this coming year I hope to continue learning about each of you and about how Messiah does and can function in the larger community of Camrose and in this world. I hope to be able to contribute positively in the workings of this congregation so that God’s will may continue to be done and that we, together, may share Jesus Christ with all people. I look forward for our TV Ministry to be updated and stabilized. I look forward to another family of refugees to be supported by us and for us to continue in our support of refugees who are in Camrose now. I look forward to those things that God has in mind for us that are not even on our radar yet!

May we continue to devote ourselves to the basics: to learning more from the scriptures, to gathering together in fellowship and worship, to breaking bread together, and to praying always.

To God be the glory.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Calvin Skriver

Diaconal Minister - Bev Swanson

Dear Friends in Christ...It is once again the time of year where we look back and remind ourselves of the faithfulness of God in our church and incredible gifts we find in our midst. As I look back over the last year and beyond I am always so blessed with the memories and experiences I have found in serving this church alongside each of you.

This ministry at Messiah is a ministry led and held by Jesus and his incredible love for each one of us. And so it is with humility that I am called along with our ministry team to share this church and it's ministry with you.

As I look over that last year and a bit, I have been in transition along with all of you as we called and welcomed a new pastor into our midst. Pastor Calvin and I have spent this past year and a half working together to create a pastoral leadership team as we have explored what ministry can look like in shared ministry together with our staff and with you all. This takes time and communication and is still in progress. I have most certainly appreciated having a partner in team ministry who loves the Lord and serves God's church so willingly. I also so much enjoy his wife Lori's presence in our midst.

Pastor Calvin and I have divided our ministry responsibilities so that we are both leading in areas that suit our gifts and skills. I have been mostly responsible for the children and family ministry. This has meant that Dale and I have spent time leading our youth except for the time that Ben and Stacey have been here from the fall to just recently. I have been the one heading up the youth ministry however as well as the confirmation program which is shared with Bethel Lutheran Church. We presently have seven students in our program. They are a wonderful group.

The Learning Committee has been a committee that I work alongside and I am the liaison for the Sunday School leaders in their amazing work with our children. As well I have been planning and leading the church family gatherings which has included varying activities such as a games night, Advent and Halloween activities and Easter egg decorating. Most of these events are also attached to sharing a potluck meal together and some sharing of God's love in our lives.

I usually lead a pre-marriage retreat but this year, Calvin and I have been doing our pre-marriage with each of the couples individually as the marriages were spread apart over time.

I have also been leading a group this Spring called the 5 Love Languages couples. We have had a wonderful group of couples joining us to learn how to love our partners even better than before. As well this Spring I am leading a study on the Psalms which came out of a seminary class that I took.

Pastoral and spiritual care (visitation) and counseling continues to be a part of what my week is made up of and I am very blessed by the opportunity to be present in the lives of people. This of course includes being a part of sharing in the sacred moments in our midst such as funerals, weddings and other "holy happenings."

Worship is a main part of my work as I share in the planning, leadership and preaching for our worship experiences here at Messiah. I regularly attend our Worship Committee meetings. It is my responsibility to join our chancel team in creating our worship space for each Sunday. I am so thankful for all who step forward to help with this.

Ecumenical ministry is so important in our town and so I am a part of our PLURA group and enjoy our work and ministry together as time allows. There is a collegial sharing in our lives and our ministries in this city. What a rich experience this has grown to be.

As outreach is a huge part of our mission here at Messiah, I spent 4 days at Hastings last summer leading the study and being present to the people at the single parent camp at Hastings. I have also been a part of the missional formation group here within the Synod of Alberta. Both Calvin and myself are a part of this experience that helps us to explore ways we can be mission in the world and look for new ways to share Jesus Christ with others.

This past year has also been a very full year of study for me. It turned out that many of my courses landed in the last half of this year, making it a very full time for me as I found myself in fulltime studying, fulltime ministry and of course tending to family fulltime. I was of course very relieved to be finished my course work and my assignments. I also want to say that the experience of studying at the seminary was also very rich and enriching for me personally and as a pastor. I was very thankful for these chances to study with such amazing people and teachers.

I officially completed my study with a Colloquy which took place on April 1st. It was especially fun and rewarding to have Dale accompany me to this time of celebration and affirmation of my journey as this was the last thing I had to complete before being eligible for ordination. Dale and I shared a full weekend together which is a rare thing indeed and enjoyed staying at the retreat centre in Saskatoon for two nights while attending this Oral Examination.

It is now very good to be able to just focus on my regular family life and ministry without the added pressure of papers, reading and classes. Everyone has been so patient as I have had to be away some from the office and home and church. THANK YOU!! A special thanks to our staff who so willingly go above and beyond to serve you in this church and to serve their God.

As I look back over this past year, I am very reminded that ministry is something we all do together. I am so thankful for all the ways you each join in the calling of loving each other and those beyond our walls. There is of course more we can always do, but when I look back I am so grateful for all you each do in the name of your Lord Jesus and in love for God's people.

So thank you for hearing the voice of the Spirit and sharing your heart with others. And thank you for recognizing that you are also a very important part of God's call in our church to be God's Love in this world. I am honored to serve our Lord Jesus together with you through our worship, work, prayer, play and fellowship. We do indeed have such a faithful God who I know is warmed by your faithful hearts and service.

In Christ's love,
Respectfully submitted,
Bev Swanson

STAFF REPORTS

Youth Ministry Coordinators

We, Stacey Haugen and Bennett Lyster, ran the Messiah youth group from late September 2016 to the end of April 2017. Events were held on Saturday nights from 7-10pm and were open to anyone in grades 7 through 12. A typical Saturday night started with each youth sharing their "highs and lows" of the past week, followed by an activity, snack and bible study. We used the Youth Alpha Film Series as the basis for our biblical discussions. Through the series we addressed questions such as: How can I have faith? Why and how do I pray? Why and how do I read the bible? The kids really enjoyed the videos and we had some great discussions.

Upcoming youth events appeared in the Messiah Messenger, weekly bulletins, and a youth newsletter which was distributed monthly via email. Our Saturday night activities included a sleepover at the church, board game nights, nerf games, Romans and Christians, games of Ultimate Frisbee and skating on Mirror Lake. We also took part in the Camrose Open Door bed race, and did some baking for the Camrose Women's Shelter. At Messiah, the youth helped with the Thanksgiving dinner, participated in the Christmas Pageant, and helped with the Easter Breakfast.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Haugen
Bennett Lyster

Music Ministry Coordinator

Another year has come and gone. It seems like it was September just a few weeks ago! Many things have happened this year at Messiah. In April we hosted Jubiloso, the handbell choir from Concordia University College. It is the biggest handbell choir in Canada. While the audience was smaller in number, they thoroughly enjoyed the concert. Our handbell choir was privileged enough to receive 60% of the proceeds of the concert. This money will go towards maintenance of the bells and new music. Thank you so much to my handbell ladies and others for helping with the concert. It could not have been done without you!

Our choir has finally grown! In fact, if they all decide to show up, it's almost doubled in size from last year. It has been so fun to work with them this year. There is a different feeling of excitement and energy within the group. We tackled a variety of music from easy to challenging and in a variety of styles including a Celtic creed. The handbells and the choir took a service in December and in May and both services were well received. They also did a special number together for the Reformation service which included trumpet. I hope to see them all again in the fall!

Our youth continue to be involved in church and have taken a larger role in worship whether it be leading from the worship band or lending their musical gifts to help out the choir or other musicians. Besides the youth team, there is a wonderful adult worship team that has sprung up also. I hope to get both groups more involved this coming year.

I have been teaching a community drumming course at Augustana. Half the group just happened to be from Messiah so we had them play for the Good Friday service. It was very powerful.

We continue to look for more handbell players and also more singers for choir, worship band and special music. Please let me know if you are interested or if you know someone who should be involved!

Thank you to everyone who has been apart of the music ministry here at Messiah. You have been a blessing to work with and have touched many lives through your gifts.

Respectfully submitted,
Tova Olson
Music Ministry Coordinator

Audio-Video Ministry Coordinator

"Grace and peace to you all through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Tech-Tastic!

First, I want to thank you again this year for the blessing it is in serving Messiah as an Audio Video Coordinator. I consider each week as a privilege and opportunity to share the gospel in this way. Thank you also for your prayers, they are felt and appreciated. I know that none of this would be possible in the same way without that kind of support.

I also thank God for the many volunteers we have helping Sunday after Sunday. They are a unique group of faithful servants. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. They quietly do the work that you hear and see every Sunday. They literally take the gospel message and amplify it from on high. (the balcony)

As you may already be aware we are on the cusp of some exciting changes ahead. Fundraising has already begun to update the old TV Ministry equipment. The service committee has been hard at work to make these changes possible. These updates will continue to help us further the "Sharing of Jesus Christ with all people"

I am always happy to show what's involved in the tech ministry. You may not be someone who is interested directly but you likely know someone for whom this would be the right ministry opportunity.

I always appreciate your eyes and ears for what is and is not working, I can and do make adjustments (where possible) based on what people tell me works and what does not work.

I again look forward to the year ahead and continuing to work with the volunteers, and congregation in any new and exciting ways we can continue to share the gospel.

Respectfully submitted,
Lowell Dahlman
Audio-Video Ministry Coordinator

Pastoral Acts 2016

Baptisms (13)

Andrew Fletcher, Ken Hale, Ellis Nester, Ryker Swanson, Tanner Yuha, Chase Dahlin, Levi Dahlin, Cheyenne Dahlin, Yvette Dahlin, Hadley Hahn, Natalie Haugen, Elisabeth Ofrim, Mindy Hawkins

Confirmation (6)

Maiya Bentley, Kassia Hohm, Andrew Fletcher, Jada Schultz, Taylor Schultz, Keysha Swanson

New Members

Transfers In (2)

Calvin & Lori Skriver

Membership Withdrawn (11)

Neil, Everly, Kobie, Kenzy & Kynlee Larson; Colin Millang; Andrew, Laura, Joshua, Benjamin & Finn Agrey

Marriages (8)

Katrina Pohl & Jamie Wold; Jenny Ofrim & Matthew d'Entremont; Chelsi Woods & Shawn Nowakowski; Jory Hafso & Mike Zwark; Kristin Hanrahan & Adam Johnson; Jenna Cardiff & Robert Cherette; Karly Newbigging & Steven Cowan; Melissa Luciuk & Brian Jacobson

Funerals (21)

* non-member

Kathleen Thronson, Ines Erkin*, Emma Tennis, Edith Kinnee, Irene Moench, Wayne Gaalaas, Kathleen Rollo, Kenwood Osness*, Florence Boden*, Ed Grue, Leona Fredrickson*, Roy Mackwood, Allen Severson, Eugene Kendall*, Ray Sigfusson*, Luella Coykendall*, Lola Alackson*, George Osness, Merle Pederson, Anne Marie Knudtson*, Ken Wold*

Council Report June 2016 to May 2017

1 Peter 4:10 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received.

Members of the Church Council, and their lengths of service are:

Member	Position	Length of Service	Future
Odell Olson	President	First year of a two-year term	Will continue for 2nd year
Carolyn Andersen	Vice-President	Second year of a two-year term	Leaving Council
Carol Green	Secretary	Second year of a two-year term	Leaving Council
Ivar Saugen	Treasurer	First year of a two-year term	Will continue for 2nd year
Art Pfeifer	Member at Large	First year of a two-year term	Will continue for 2nd year
Darlene Dahle	Member at Large	Second year of a two-year term	New 2 year term
Dave Larsen	Member at Large	First year of a two-year term	Will continue for 2nd year
Jim Ofrim	Member at Large	Second year of a two-year term	Leaving Council
Sharon Gilbertson	Member at Large	First year of a two-year term	Will continue for 2nd year

We have 8 regular Council meetings per year, no meetings in July, August or December. Our meetings were held on the third Tuesday of the month at 4 PM. Attendance of Council Members was excellent. We tried Skype again for those away from home, the new laptop did improve the functioning but sound quality is still an issue. Our Advisors have been Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson and Pastor Calvin Skriver who have both attended all our meetings. Devotional leadership at each meeting was shared among the Council members, Bev Swanson and Calvin Skriver. We started each meeting with devotions and a time of sharing followed by prayer. Meetings were closed with prayer.

Messiah Council Accomplishments 2016 2017

Instead of the Annual Planning Meeting held in September we had a social/planning meeting with Council and the Committee Chairs at the home of David and Darlene Dahle. We had a time of sharing, devotion and prayer then set our goals for the year: encouraging spiritual growth, encouraging members to expand the number and depth of their relationships. We rearranged our council meeting agenda to encourage discussion of planning and opportunities first as we shifted to more governance and less management. We have moved the Governance Manual to the Messiah Web Site and have stopped printing Governance Manuals for Council and Committee chairs. We received initial reports from the Alternative Use Task Group set up last year. The recent arrival of Jemila from Eritrea and the discovery in our community of several recent immigrants from Eritrea has resulted in the start of a "Refugee Centre" in Messiah. We tried to get people involved in Missional Development, the program of the Alberta Synod. Although Lori Skriver, Vivianne Grue and I attended two meetings we were unable to raise enough interest to sustain attendance.

I attended Synod Convention where Ruth Jensen who had agreed to be our nominee was elected as a representative to the National Convention this summer.

The Secretary Carol Green regularly produced Council Packages, Minutes and Council Highlights for The Messenger. She has kept the Governance Manual up to date. Among the changes were those David Dahle and Max Lindstrand recommended when they reviewed the Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and other Vulnerable People. Carol has been meeting with Pastor Calvin and Lori Mokry to transfer some of the many duties the secretary has assumed since the resignation of Pastor Kenn Ward back to paid staff. This should make it possible for someone with a full-time job to manage the secretary position as Carol leaves to join the Learning Committee. She has managed a complex and time consuming position with skill and care.

The Treasurer Ivar Saugen has again worked diligently providing Council with financial information and forecasting. He has assisted the Audit Committee in their function, completed the review of the endowment funds and overseen the elimination of all church debt.

The Vice President Carolyn Andersen chairs the very important Nomination Committee. They work long and hard on obtaining nominees for all the Council and Committee positions. Thank you to Don Myrehaug, Joanne Myrehaug and Eleanor Kopperud for assisting her in this important task. She and Dave Larsen assisted me in a Ministry Assessment with Pastor Calvin. Carolyn will be leaving Council; we will miss her wisdom and experience.

The Committee Liaison members were diligent in attending the meetings of their committees and maintaining contact with the Committee Chairs. They effectively communicated from and to these committees. We thank Jim for his work with the Witnessing Committee as he leaves Council.

Committees and People serving in other ways

Thanks to all the standing committees and their members. These are the people who plan, organize and carry out the programs that make up the mission of Messiah. It includes everything from regular and special service planning, educational classes for all ages and several special groups. They coordinate our internal and external charitable activities. They arrange for the care and repair of the buildings and all they contain. They are all dedicated volunteers sharing their gifts.

The Future

We start this year with new Council Members and numerous changes in the Committees. Council will recommend a call to a second ordained pastor at the AGM. It is time for a new Church Directory. We hope to see the establishment of the Refugee Centre, the settling in of Jemila and work with newcomers to our country. Our Youth Leaders have moved. We need to continue our youth programs and our program for families with children. We may need to let go of programs which have less reason for being. We continue to work with our members to increase their spiritual growth in relationships with other members and our staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Odell Olson
President of Messiah Council

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Learning Committee

Members of the Learning Committee were Alice Lindstrand, Cheryl Nester (Chairperson), Sharon Ofrim, Marie Olson and Tim Schultz (resigned in February). Our Council Liaison was Sharon Gilbertson. This committee met once per month throughout the course of the year.

Our Sunday School Committee met during the summer months to review the previous year's program and to determine what worked well and what areas were in need of change or revision. In preparation for a slightly different organizational system, all the many Sunday School tasks were compiled, analyzed and then categorized into three areas. The categories and volunteer coordinators were as follows: Materials Coordinator – Shannon Stolee, Program Coordinator – Deanna Didriksen, and PR/Parent Liaison – Michelle Kennedy Hawkins. These ladies met regularly throughout the year to discuss, brainstorm ideas, plan activities and share their insights regarding Sunday School. Huge thanks to them for their commitment to the Sunday School program at Messiah. Sunday School format was not changed. Children began Sunday morning in the sanctuary, participating in worship until after the Children's Story at which time they dismissed as a group with their teachers and headed downstairs to the Sunday School gathering area for a quick 'opening' together before dispersing into classes. Three classes were offered this year. An Age 4-5 year old class, a Grade 1-2 class and a Grade 3-6 class. Sunday School continued to use the WHIRL curriculum. This year began with Fall of Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary. This curriculum and materials proved to be quite engaging for the children and easy to use for the volunteer teachers. The Learning Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteer teachers, helpers, snack providers, story tellers, and special presenters. Sunday School teachers this year included Darlene Dahle, Deanna Didriksen, Emma Gjesdal, Carol Haugen, Michelle Kennedy-Hawkins, Cheryl Nester, Kelly Moseson and Shannon Stolee. There is a strong need for more Sunday School teachers next year. A commitment to teach Sunday School involves teaching as little as once a month. Please prayerfully consider if this rewarding opportunity might be for you!

We would like to thank Helen Sather who has continued in her role as *Splash* Coordinator. Helen does the record keeping and necessary ordering of the *Splash* newsletter that is sent to parents of children baptized at Messiah. Families receive these newsletters until their child is four years old and able to enrol in Sunday School. (More information in Helen's report.)

Once again we thank Nora Gilbertson and her crew of Jane Arial, Cindy Bentley, Audrey Davis and Joanie Zimmer for their continued commitment to the Friendship Club. Christmas at Messiah would not be the same without this group's poignant portrayal of the Christmas story through their pageant.

Bev and Dale Swanson once again took on the roles of Youth Ministry leaders until Ben Lyster and Stacey Haugen returned to Camrose and were hired for this position. Our youth at Messiah are small in number but very active and involved. Between 5 -10 young people met weekly for a variety of activities, bible study and prayer. Youth enjoyed Games Nights, Pizza Nights, Movie Nights and more. A service component was also part of the Youth Program this year. Projects such as baking cookies for the Women's Shelter, participating in the Open Door Bedrace and collecting winter clothing for various groups were undertaken. Youth also served and assisted at a few of Messiah's special events such as the Thanksgiving Dinner and the Easter Breakfast. The *Alpha* series was used for devotion, study and discussion. Thank you Bev, Dale, Ben and Stacey!

Seven young people took part in Confirmation studies this year with guidance and instruction from Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson and Pastor Deborah Anne Taylor from Bethel Lutheran church. These students are all in their first year of Confirmation studies and will not be Confirmed until next year.

Once again, several Messiah Church families got together for social activities. Events were generally planned around the holidays and included seasonally themed activities. Potluck suppers or appetizers followed by fun, engaging activities were enjoyed greatly by all who attended. Many thanks to Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson for spearheading these worthwhile events.

Thank you to Shellie Carson and Loya Steinwandt who have capably maintained our church library this year.

Men's Bible Study continues to meet on Saturday mornings at 8:45 in the lounge. This group takes a look at the readings for Sunday and discuss their implications for daily living. Another group that meets regularly on Monday mornings at 10:30 in the lounge is Lectio Divina. Jane Arial leads this contemplative and meditative session.

One of the ways the Learning Committee promotes adult learning is through Sunday Adult Class. This year's Sunday mornings began with a series of DVD presentations called Animate – Bible at a Glance. Thanks to Pastor Calvin Skriver for getting us off to such a good start this year by facilitating these sessions.

A very big thank you to the many who contributed to our Sunday Adult Class. A variety of interesting and inspiring presentations were made by members of our faith community here at Messiah. Other presenters included people from our local community as well as guests from outside the Camrose area. Thank you to the following people who willingly shared personal 'stories' of faith in one of our panels: Lori Skriver, Cheryl Nester, Milt Gilbertson, Betty Pearson, Marie Olson, Rhonda Draper, Erhard Pinno, Gail Stolee, Ivar Saugen, Ron Foshaug, Dave Larson, Max Lindstrand, Odell Olson and Ken Skriver. Other presenters included Pastor Calvin, Richard Bruneau, Dittmar Muendel, Peter LeBlanc, Joy LeBlanc, Bill Harder, Pastor Craig Wentland, Ruth Jensen, Dale Swanson, Lynn Thygesen, Odell Olson, CeCe Watts, Nora Gilbertson and Bev Swanson. Thanks to all!

The Learning Committee offered another adult learning opportunity in the form of a 'Book Study'. On Mondays from February 27th to April 3rd, classes took place in the basement auditorium under the leadership of Pastor Calvin Skriver. Participants in this course were able to attend an afternoon or evening class. The book, Making Sense of the Cross, along with the accompanying DVD were used for this study. Participants purchased their own copies of the book and prepared for Monday's session by reading the assigned chapter in advance. Questions and insights were shared and lots of discussion ensued. Positive feedback was received from many of the approximately 40 people who participated in this course. Thank you Pastor Calvin, for leading us into Lent with this worthwhile study.

The Learning Committee is committed to ..."*assisting the congregation in realizing its nature and mission in the area of learning...*" and so we value feedback from the congregation. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Nester
Chairperson of the Learning Committee

Splash Program

The *SPLASH* program is one in which parents of young children receive resources to support their central role in the faith formation of their child. Beginning at baptism, the parents receive monthly newsletters until the child reaches the age of 36 months. These Parent Pages contain ideas on how to share Bible stories, ways to encourage building communication and faith among family members in fun ways, tips to encourage children to pray, helping children to understand and participate in worship, as well as suggestions for building faith and connecting with extended family. Books for reading to the child are also suggested.

As well as the monthly Parent Pages, a music CD featuring singable Sunday tunes is given at baptism, 13 months, and 25 months.

In the 2016 calendar year, *SPLASH* newsletters were being sent out to 20 families, 16 of whom are still receiving them currently (March 2017). These families are not only in the Camrose area, but also from Edmonton (2), Drayton Valley (1), Leduc (1), and Cochrane (1).

In addition to the Parent Pages and CDs, parents receive letters on the first, second, and third anniversaries of their child's baptism. These letters contain practical suggestions for growing faith at home and within the Messiah family. In 2016, 11 first anniversaries were recognized, 8 second anniversaries, and 13 third anniversaries.

Helen Sather
SPLASH Coordinator

Service Committee

Just as you did it to one of the least of these....you did it to me." (Matthew 24:40)

Membership Carol Cherry, Donny Loewen (Secretary), Rod MacInnis (chairperson), Member at Large from Council: Art Pfeiffer, Pastoral Representation: Calvin Skriver

Main Purpose: To assist the Congregation in realizing its nature and mission in the area of service as defined in the Constitution: Article 3, Section 5.

Areas of Service:

Within Messiah: The service committee seeks to affirm and promote activities in a general way. The main affirmation took place on Sunday, April 23, 2017 when volunteers were thanked at the end of service by Pastor Calvin Skriver and with the serving of a volunteer appreciation cake at Coffee Fellowship. The Service Committee thanks all those who volunteer in many capacities within Messiah.

In the Community: As per its mandate in the Bylaws, the Service Committee affirms and supports specific activities by Messiah members in the community both locally and internationally.

Learning Together: On Sunday, February 12, 2017 Judith Mazankowski outlined the Learning Together program and its mandate to provide a high school education to young single mothers.

Camrose and District Support Services: On Sunday February, 26, 2017 Sheralyn Dobos presented on a wide variety of services offered in the Camrose Community.

Primary Care Network: On Sunday, March 5, 2017 Colleen McKinstry presented on services available in Camrose and surrounding area.

Martha's Table: For two months each year, May and September one day per week, about 30 Messiah members take turns at preparing and serving noon meals at St. Andrew's and the United Church. Thank you to Elaine Taylor for coordinating this activity.

Meals on Wheels: Continues to be a valued service in the Camrose community delivering hot meals to numerous residents of Camrose. Thank you to Ray Blacklock for coordinating this service for Messiah.

Neighbor Aid: Continues to be a valued resource in the community providing food hampers to many in need. Thank you to Karen Hansen for being Messiah's liaison with Neighbor Aid.

CLWR: Continues to do much needed service for the world. Thank you Marilyn Hoveland for coordinating CLWR at Messiah.

Other Service Committee Activities:

As with other Messiah groups we prepared and served lunch following worship September 11, 2016.

We continued to discuss and struggle with the issue of homelessness in Camrose and entered into discussion with the City of Camrose and Camrose and District Support Services.

In October 2016 the service committee motioned that changes to the Vulnerable Persons Policy be approved.

In December 2016 the committee approved use of Samaritan fund beyond the \$500.00 pastoral level of approval to assist a local family in need.

In January and February 2017 the Service Committee discussed the ending of the Seniors Christmas Communion Service and supported this recommendation from the Seniors Group.

Expressions Program: In 2016-2017 the Service Committee Supported the providing of space within Messiah for this group. This is a group that provides artistic expression for women who have been victim to domestic violence.

Discontinued recruiting volunteers from Messiah to deliver Christmas hampers as the Camrose Community is meeting this need.

Once again thank you to all the members of Messiah who assist in "Sharing Jesus Christ with all People".

Respectfully submitted,
Rod MacInnis
Service Committee Chairperson

Support Committee

Ron Foshaug, Chair; Lois Larson, Secretary; David Larson, Council Liaison
Members: Milt Gilbertson, Don Myrehaug, Gordon Myrehaug, Dale Swanson

Repairs and capital expenditures have been done as needed throughout the year. The work done by the Committee this past year has included:

- Sealing the west side foundation of the church
- Changing the doorway between an office and the work room
- Purchasing and installing 16 new video cameras
- Upgrading the electrical in the church office
- Upgrading the equipment for the TV ministry
- Started the TV Ministry Fund
- Improved building signage
- Upgraded the sanctuary and fellowship hall with LED lights
- Upgraded the podium microphone
- Purchased an office laptop and phone headset

The Committee wishes to thank all those who have helped us accomplish our mandate. Thanks to the snow shovelers, the Wednesday workers, Bev, Calvin and the MLC office staff, MLW for their services, Ruth Jensen for editing the Messenger, Doreen Brewer for going above and beyond, the custodians for their great care of our building, Loretta Foshaug for scheduling, Tova Olson for keeping our instruments in good repair, Sheila Becker for keeping all our finances in order, Lowell Dahlman and all those who worked on our audio visual needs, and Carvel Skaret, Rod MacInnis and Bernie Williams who diligently opened and locked up our building. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Larson
Support Committee Secretary

Witnessing Committee

The members of our amazing committee are: Gail Stolee (Secretary), Jim Ofrim (Council Liaison), Cecelia Watts (Chair), Lavona Broen, Mary Ellen Eriksson, Shirley Loewen, Erhard Pinno. Everyone has worked together so hard to complete our mission of "Sharing Jesus Christ with all People".

We continue with coffee fellowship every Sunday after morning worship, (thanks to Elaine Schultz for organizing this) and having LunchFEST or Potluck on the second Sunday of the month (except July & August). The potluck for October has turned into a turkey dinner which was enjoyed by about 130 people. This year we have extended an invitation to participants in Martha's Table to join us for lunch on those Sundays. We encourage everyone to enjoy coffee fellowship each Sunday, and if you are able, give your name to Elaine to host a Sunday, or if you would just like to donate cookies for a Sunday. In the summer months we extend hospitality to the members of our community by hosting coffee on the lawn on Wednesday mornings. Other summer activities include a tea in the front entry on Founders' Day, and serving cookies, coffee and cold drinks to people who are enjoying the parade. One activity we always enjoy is serving oranges and nanaimo bars after the wonderful Christmas pageant put on by the Friendship Club. This is a highlight for the whole congregation to take part in celebrating with these people who have so much joy in spreading the love of Jesus to all of us.

As well as being the "hospitality" committee, we strive to encourage members and friends who have not been joining our worship recently, and visit or phone to invite them to again be a part of the fellowship we enjoy here at Messiah. We also help with projects such as shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse at Christmas and encourage giving through CLWR to Gifts from the Heart. In the fall we participate in the scarecrow display as part of a community endeavour. Every week we have someone at the Welcome Centre to greet "new and old" friends and members, as well as delivering the Sunday bulletin each Friday to some of the lodges to our many members who can no longer join us in worship, but can worship with us through the TV ministry.

It is 5 years since we upgraded our last pictorial directory, so we are arranging for a company to come to our church and take pictures and publish a new directory. Participants will have the opportunity to buy photos and have them delivered before Christmas.

The World Mission Group keeps us updated on missions (see report following), as well the Refugee Support Group that is now under our "umbrella" (see report following).

It is with regret that we will be saying goodbye and a huge "thank you" to Jim, Gail and Lavona from our committee. They have been an important part of our committee, but thankfully they will still be a vital part of our congregation. We will miss them but look forward to working with them through other avenues of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecelia Watts
Witnessing Committee Chairperson

World Mission Group

Sharing Jesus Christ, *Cross Culturally*, with all People
Annual Report to the Witnessing Committee, May, 2017
*"I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* Isaiah 49:6

Existing for the purpose of keeping before the congregation Jesus' command to go into all the world with the Gospel, the World Mission Group normally met on the first Monday of each month to study, pray, plan action, and have fellowship.

The Biblical basis for our opening study and meditation was drawn from several books of the Bible, and from related publications, usually with a mission outreach theme.

Although our most important activity is regularly praying for missionaries, the Group also directed its energies to other activities:

1. Messiah's most specific connection with a missionary is to Rev. Brian Rude who serves in El Salvador among marginalized people.

Rev. Rude is a full-time missionary of the Alberta Synod. All support of Rev. Rude is through designated givings from Alberta Synod members, and from people in other Synods. People in other synods may send their support directly to the Alberta Synod. For the period 1 May, 2016 through 30 April, 2017, individuals in Messiah and the MLW contributed approximately \$6,000 toward the goal of \$10,000. Special thanks to contributors to "In Mission with El Salvador," and through it to the ministry of Rev. Rude.

2. In its 22nd Anniversary of organizing World Mission Months, the Group chose the theme, "*Reaching Out...in Christ's Love...*" for January, 2017. The sessions attracted between 35 and 50 people to the adult classes in the basement auditorium. The featured speakers and their topics were: on January 8th, Brad and Sandi Miller of International Teams who were with us through a Skype connection to Illinois, USA (The Group acknowledges with great appreciation the work of Dale Swanson in helping the Group do the preparatory work and actual on-the-day connection to make this first in Messiah's history to happen.); on January 15, Rebecca Berger (President of Sahakarini) and Randal Nickel (heading up student life at Augustana) promoted the concept of "Friendship Families" in Camrose as a way of establishing bonds between Augustana university students and Camrose residents; January 22, Darcy Albers, recently returned missionary under World Mission Prayer League described the challenges and joys of serving among a mountain group in Pakistan; January 29, Erhard Pinno shared the developments and frustrations of attracting refugees to Camrose and particularly to Messiah; February 5, first, Rev. Brian Rude spoke with us through our second Skype connection of this extended month, sharing the difficulties and hopes for Gospel outreach in a country (El Salvador) with its high death rate of unsolved murders, and second, Cece Watts told of the work and life of her son, George Watts and his family as they serve at a rural hospital in Burundi.

The Group acknowledges with appreciation the inclusion in the prayers on Sunday morning of the World Mission Month activities. Further, the cooperation of the *Messenger* editor in providing good publicity for the Month is also acknowledged and appreciated.

3. A regular item on our agendas is a consideration of one of Messiah's mission priorities, viz. welcoming and helping refugees to settle in Camrose.

4. It is anticipated that the George Watts family will be back in Canada for a "leave" at some point over the summer. The Group hopes to provide an opportunity for them to share at Messiah a description of their ministry.

5. For promotional purposes, the bulletin board in the Link regularly features world mission issues. The *Messenger* contains regular reports of mission activity, especially from or about Rev. Rude.

6. We appreciate the support received from the Witnessing Committee as it oversees our activities.

The Chair acknowledges with appreciation the active participation in the World Mission Group of Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson, Nora Gilbertson, Erhard Pinno, and Cece Watts.

We give thanks to God for the life and witness of Rev. Milton Rude, a former long-time member of the Group, who died in this past year.

This Group, which is neither appointed nor elected, is open to others who would like to share in its activities.

To God be the Glory.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Blacklock

World Mission Group Chairperson

Refugee Support Group

The Refugee Support Group consists of about 20 volunteers who are members and friends of Messiah, helping refugees as they begin their new life in Canada. No one is a refugee by choice. All kinds of people are refugees. Refugees are forced to flee out of fear for their lives. Jesus' family fled to Egypt because Mary and Joseph feared for His life. And, as loved ones leave their earthly journey, we are reminded that we are all refugees destined for our eternal home prepared for us. As we journey on, we have the privilege of helping and being helped by other refugees along the way.

1. Update on refugee families:

- a. 2008. Edna Rios and family – Margarita, Walter, Manuela and Alejandra. Edna spent most of 2016 at the University Hospital for leukemia treatment. She is now feeling well and back to full-time work at Augustana. The children are doing fine at work/school.
- b. 2013. Paula Valencia and daughter Sara. Living and working in Edmonton. Sara is doing well in grade 4.
- c. 2017. Zaim family – mother, two sons and their wives and children, for a total of nine. CLWR has put the family on their list for future sponsorship. This Syrian family has been forced to relocate four times during the last few years. They are presently living in Syria again.
- d. 2017. Azmera and Mulugeta family – Simon, Delina, Kistante, and Fitihawet (Freedom). This is the family that attends Messiah. They arrived in Prince Albert, SK, in March 2015 and in Camrose in March 2016. Members of Messiah and the Camrose Community have become friends with this family. Their needs have spurred us on to establish a Refugee Centre in this Community.
- e. 2017. Mibrak and Yohannes (John) family – Lulia, Sinit, and Dawid. We give thanks to God for this family for hosting Jemila for the first three weeks of Jemila's stay in Canada.
- f. 2017. Jemila Ali. A group of Messiah members and Eritrean families welcomed Jemila at the Edmonton airport on March 23. Staying with Mibrak's family helped to ease the adjustment to living in Camrose. She is now living in a beautiful furnished apartment generously provided by Harry and Margery Gaede. Jemila is progressing well in her full-time English studies – two mornings a week with Norquest College and the rest of the week with Elizabeth Bagdan, Nora Gilbertson, Lorraine Tennis, Margery Gaede and many others who have become her teachers and friends. We are blessed to have the privilege to sponsor Jemila.
- g. 2017. Weini and Yohannes family – Heyabel and Dvora. This is the Eritrean family living in Israel that we approved for sponsorship last year conditional on receipt on their behalf of \$15,000.00 for their support. Messiah is presently holding \$15,320.50 for their support that likely included contributions from themselves. It was not clear that this was against the rules of sponsorship at the time that these funds were received. It is now clear that refugees cannot contribute for their own sponsorship. Fikre Tsehai of CLWR has responded that the passage of the motion proposed below would ensure that we are in compliance with the sponsorship agreement. The motion comes recommended by the Refugee Support Group and has been approved by the Witnessing Committee and Church Council.

Motion: That Messiah's sponsorship of Weini and Yohannes and their children will include financial support and that the portion of the reserved funds of \$15,320.50 that was contributed by the family will be returned to them upon their arrival.

2. Camrose Refugee Centre:

In preparing for Jemila's coming, we met other Eritrean families who were also in need. This led the Refugee Support Group working together with Pastor Calvin, President Odell Olson, Cece Watts and the Camrose Refugee Coordinating Committee (CRCC), to establish the Camrose Refugee Centre as one of the ministries of the Witnessing Committee of Messiah Lutheran Church. The CRCC executive and representatives from Messiah have developed terms of reference and guidelines of operation. The email address is Camrose.Refugee.Centre@gmail.com, the phone number is **780-781-2846**, and the password is WeWantToHelp. What a timely opportunity to share the love of God with new comers to our community. And, to add to the good news, Yvonne Myrehaug has agreed to serve as the Coordinator of the Camrose Refugee Centre!

3. Financial Update.

- a. **\$15,320.50** is reserved for the Weini and Yohannes family.
- b. **\$11,447.52** is the total in the Refugee Support Fund as of April 30, 2017. **\$3,035** of this amount was received in April 2017. On behalf of the refugees, I thank God for the generosity of the people in our Messiah and Camrose community.
- c. **\$856.00** is Jemila's monthly support from the government. Because of the discounted rent of \$400.00 per month, we do not need to supplement her financial support.

Thank you: to the members and friends of Messiah for the generous support of refugees; to all the members of the Refugee Support Group for sharing your gifts with refugees; to the MLW for the many ways they help refugees around the world; to all who have supported and prayed and shared many kindnesses with refugees; to Fikre Tsehai and Senait Biadgilign of CLWR for their guidance and encouragement in facilitating refugee sponsorship; to the executive and membership of the Camrose Refugee Coordinating Committee for their guidance and ecumenical spirit in establishing the Camrose Refugee Centre; to Pastor Calvin and staff, and the Church Council, for their enthusiastic support; to Dave Stolee for excellent Minutes of all of our meetings; to all the refugees who have become our friends; and to our gracious God who sent his Son Jesus to be our best friend.

Respectfully submitted,
Erhard Pinno
Coordinator of the Refugee Support Group

Worship Committee

Members of the 2016-17 Worship Committee were: David Dahle (chairperson), Norma Ferguson (secretary), Nora Gilbertson, Laverne Hoveland, Elaine Olson, and Gail Pfeiffer (vice-chairperson). The Church Council liaison was Darlene Dahle. Diaconal Minister Bev Swanson and Pastor Calvin Skriver met regularly with the committee.

The Committee is thankful for the many individuals who support worship at Messiah. Among these individuals is Loretta Foshaug who prepares the lists for communion preparers and servers, lectors, greeters, and ushers, and in consultation with Lowell Dahlman also prepares a list for audio, video, and worship screen technicians for the Sunday TV broadcast. We are thankful for the many volunteers who have served as communion preparers and servers (both at Messiah and at the Lodges), lectors, greeters, ushers, and audio, video, and worship screen technicians.

Also appreciated is the assistance provided to Bev by Bill and Margo McPhail, Amara Onyia, and Norma Ferguson in beautifying the sanctuary. Thanks also to the Wednesday Workers and Lloyd Olson who have, on occasion, assisted in banner placement.

We thank Diaconal Minister Bev, Pastor Calvin, and Tova Olson for planning our services, and those who have assisted by providing the children's message.

The Committee appreciates the work of Tova Olson who, as principal organist and Music Ministry Coordinator, has enhanced our worship experience. Much appreciated are those who have led worship through their musical gifts. Also appreciated is the work of Doreen Brewer in preparing the materials used in every worship service.

The Committee wants to thank Donny Loewen for continuing to organize "Hymn Sing" at Messiah to support those interested in singing the old favorite hymns.

The Committee is appreciative of the work of a sub-committee made up of Marilyn and Laverne Hoveland, and Eleanor Kopperud who planned special music for Sunday services during the summer months as well as during the regular year when Tova did not have special music planned.

A new communion bread baked by members of the committee for use on the third Sunday of the month and on festival Sundays has been introduced. Feedback from a few members of the congregation has resulted in wafers also being made available on the Sundays when the bread is served. White in place of dark grape juice was instituted so there would be less chance that someone requesting grape juice would be served wine by mistake.

The document "First Aid for Someone Who is Ill", which is included in the First Aid Kit available from the Visitors' Centre, was revised and included in the Governance Handbook.

The Worship Committee is involved in planning some of the worship experiences for the congregational retreat to be held at Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, June 23-25, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
David W. Dahle
Worship Committee Chairperson

Messiah Lutheran Women

We are blessed at Messiah to have close to one hundred women, divided into eight circles, meet monthly to study God's Word; a time to nurture our faith, grow spiritually, develop leadership skills and a time to bond together as women of God. "Fruit of the Spirit," written by Hazel Offner, is the Study Guide we are enjoying this year. It is proving to be a blessing to each one of us. Fruit of the Spirit is becoming more meaningful as we experience life in a deeper relationship with the Giver of the fruit. Bible Study Briefing for the Bible Study leaders, conducted by Pastor Skriver, is appreciated.

Our Mission Statement, "Sharing Jesus Christ with all people through Bible Study and Service," moves each one of us to use our gifts of time and talents, as well as monetary gifts, to enhance the lives of the poor and destitute through CLWR. Many of our members are involved in quilting – a service that provides warmth and comfort to the needy. Our shipment to CLWR last November consisted of 16 boxes of quilts and various kits. Fifty of these quilts were large and nine were baby quilts. We sent over \$6,000.00 dollars, plus the cost of quilt batting, to CLWR in 2016.

Our quilts, besides being sent overseas, became gifts given locally to Augustana's Silent Auction Chaplain's Fund. Two quilts were donated so the proceeds could be added to the monetary support of Augustana's Chaplain. Messiah's silent auction of quilts proceeds to be used for CLWR ocean freight, netted \$230.00. By the way, we must not forget to thank our Wednesday Workers for transporting CLWR boxes to Home Hardware here in Camrose. Home Hardware is also to be commended for their role in the transportation of the MLW contributions to CLWR. Our Treasurer's Report lists the variety of recipients, besides CLWR, of our monetary gifts.

The Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Fundraiser was again held at Messiah in February with the Daae Family providing the program. Over one hundred people were in attendance. Appreciation is expressed to our members and members of various neighbouring churches who willingly baked, set up, served and cleared away for this function. We are truly united in our affection for HLLBC!

We seek to serve Jesus Christ with all people in various ways. Many members attended the "World Day of Prayer" held at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in March. We now require a replacement for a Messiah representative as Karen Hansen, after holding this position for 21 years, is retiring.

Four groups rotate in serving for funeral lunches for Messiah member families. Several ladies act as liaison when non Messiah members request the use of our facilities for funeral lunches.

Appreciation is expressed to members who participate in various projects; cleaning church pews, washing chairs, purchase cards for the confirmed, high school graduates, purchase Bibles for Grade three Sunday School students, assist Mary Broen with the Garage Sale, (proceeds to fund Messiah's June Retreat at HLLBC), organize and present the annual October Thank Offering Program.

We trust this annual report looks back at a year of spiritual growth, of willing service and above all, a time of growing closer to God and closer to one another. A special thank you to MLW members for sharing your talents, your time and your monetary wealth – all to the glory of God!

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Espe
MLW President

MLW Officers:
President - Sylvia Espe
Vice President - Marie Brager
Secretary - Carole Saugen
Treasurer - Diane Scarisbrick
Program Coordinator - Berniece Sogge

MESSIAH LUTHERAN WOMEN
OPERATING STATEMENT
January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

INCOME

Circle /General Offerings	\$ 9951.40
CLWR Hunger Fund	308.96
Study Guides	880.40
Funeral Lunches and Co-op Dividend	6562.16
Ocean Freight	335.00
Cookbooks	90.00
Ladies Day Out	1270.00
Quilting	211.00
Gifts	0.00
Specials	3923.00
Total Income	\$ 23531.92

EXPENSES

Sharing Gifts	\$ 5700.00
CLWR (Hunger, Shipping Costs, Christmas)	1795.00
Gifts	4575.57
Kitchen Usage	149.23
Quilting	2253.23
Funeral Lunches	1266.23
Postage/Supplies	187.31
Bldg	0.00
Bank Charges	140.84
Specials	3873.00
Cookbooks	0.00
Ladies Day Out	1494.36
Study Guides	974.36
Total Expenses	\$ 22409.13

Profit (Loss)	1122.79
December 31, 2015 balance forward	4736.00
December 31, 2016 General Ledger Balance	\$ 5858.79

GIFTS

Hastings Lake Bible Camp	1000.00
CLBI-Student Bursary	500.00
Messiah Lutheran Church-Samaritan Fund	1000.00
B Swanson Honorarium	50.00
Rev. Susan Horton Honorarium	50.00
CLBI	500.00
Staff Gifts	700.00
Merry Christmas Fund	250.00
Books	25.57
C. Landstrom Mission Work	500.00
Total Gifts	\$ 4575.57

SHARING GIFTS

The Great Commission (Hannah Broen)	\$ 450.00
Camrose Food Bank	450.00
Hospice Society of Camrose	450.00
Camrose Women's Shelter	450.00
Brian Rude	1000.00
CLWR-Ethiopia	1000.00
CLWR-Water Well	1900.00
Total Sharing Gifts	\$ 5700.00

SPECIALS

International Teams Serge (George & Susan Watts)	500.00
Augustana Chaplaincy	500.00
Messiah Lutheran-Easter Bkft (519.95 +66.05 costs)	586.00
CLWR-Ft. McMurray	2287.00
Total Specials	\$ 3873.00

Audited by Mary Broen

Submitted by Signe Harder-Treasurer Messiah Lutheran Women

Faith Life Chapter

FaithLife Financial has updated the amount of funds we at Messiah are eligible for. Messiah can now apply for a total of two matching grants consisting of \$300.00 each. Previously, FaithLife Financial gave us a total of three grants of \$500.00 each.

On Easter Sunday April 16, 2017 Messiah's Faith Life Chapter sponsored and supported our Easter morning breakfast. The amount raised before deducting expenses was \$3700.00. Messiah applied for and received a matching grant of \$300.00 from FaithLife Financial. The monies raised were directed to Messiah's sound equipment fund.

A second event held on Thursday and Friday, May 25 & 26, 2017 was a garage sale with the proceeds going towards Messiah's annual congregational retreat at Hastings's Lake Bible Camp. Messiah's Faith Life Chapter is in the process of applying for a 2nd matching grant of \$300.00 from FaithLife Financial.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Person

Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp

Thanks again to everyone, who finds a way to support Hastings! Whenever we meet as the board, we are so very aware of the amazing support we experience from all of you in the Association; whether in prayer, attending programs or events, volunteering, giving financially or some combination of the above. I truly **thank God for each and every one** of you as you make Hastings what it is!

As we look back over the summer programs of 2016, we recall with amazement a total summer camp attendance of over 700 people. It was also awesome to hear how many of our camp neighbours joined Andrew and Dieta for our Neighborhood Block Party.

I'm sure that every one of you reading this, either experienced or heard about **our biggest Thanksgiving attendance in recent years**. The chapel absolutely overflowed with amazing Praise and heartfelt Worship, so capably led by the Berg Family; thank you so very much.

Certainly we remain especially grateful for the summer grants that were awarded to Hastings so we could have sufficient staff to better accommodate the growing numbers attending our summer camp program. Truly we give thanks that all major facility aspects worked well, avoiding any unexpected repairs. Finally **we are so very pleased** to have our trailer rented out again, because it is so tricky to find renters that understand and can accommodate the ebbs and flows of our busy summer program and rentals. We ask you to help us welcome back to Hastings, the Darcy & Laura Albers Family. I understand that they are home from the mission field as Darcy attends seminary in Edmonton; so surround them with prayers as well.

Diligently continue your unceasing prayers & financial support for the continued ministry of Hastings, as together we make Christ known. Wait with us for positive consideration of our recent operational grant requests. Remember we still depend on continuing donations. Please continue your trusting practice of surrounding the board with prayer as we work with future directions that will at least involve: improving administrative organization, campground improvements, Noah's Ark redesign, evaporation pond solutions, improved zoning, and maybe even sorting out where is best to house our summer program staff. We also look forward to organize a better way to communicate all of our information at the Annual General Meeting in May 2017 when it will be the first time that we will report from within our board's recent 3 committee structure change. **Remember** to visit our website or call our office 780-662-2557 and discover the ways you can **volunteer & help Hastings** with your presence.

Respectfully submitted while recalling God's Abundant Blessings for us all,
Dale Swanson
HLLBC Board Chair

Statistics

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Members Received	Baptized	Confirmed
By Child Baptism	11	
By Adult Baptism	0	
By Affirmation of faith, transfer, or from non-Lutheran	6	
Total New Members Received	17	
Baptized Members Confirmed		4

Members Removed	Baptized	Confirmed
By Death	16	
By Transfer	11	
By Request and to Responsibility List	15	
Total Members Removed	42	

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership Dec. 31, 2015	628	503
Membership Dec. 31, 2016	603	484
Active Members	255	
Adherent list (active but not members)	70	
Responsibility List	648	

Households 332

Services

Total number of Sunday Worship Services (a.m. & p.m.)	52
Total number of Weekday Worship Services	5
Total number of Services with Holy Communion	29
Average Sunday worship attendance	163

2017 Report of the Nominating Committee

Church Council	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
President	Odell Olson		
Vice-President			Gail Stolee
Secretary			Jonathan Hawkins
Treasurer	Ivar Saugen		
Member at Large	Dave Larson		
Member at Large	Sharon Gilbertson		
Member at Large	Art Pfeiffer		
Member at Large			Darlene Dahle
Member at Large			?

Learning Committee	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
			Marie Olson
			Cheryl Nester
			Sharon Ofrim
			Dave Stolee
			Carol Green
	Alice Lindstrand		

Service Committee	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
			Rod MacInnis
			Carol Cherry
			Yvonne Myrehaug
			Perry Schulmeister
			?
	Donny Loewen		

Support Committee	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
	Gord Myrehaug		
	Don Myrehaug		
	Milt Gilbertson		
			Dale Swanson
			Lois Larson
			Ron Foshaug

Witnessing Committee	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
			Erhard Pinno
	Mary Ellen Eriksson		
	Shirley Loewen		
	Cecelia Watts		
			?
			?

Worship Committee	Nominated to Serve until June 2018	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term, 2017-2018	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term, 2017-2019
			David Dahle
			Lori Skriver
			?
			?
	Gail Pfeiffer		
	Nora Gilbertson		

Thank you to those who have agreed to serve on Council or on a Committee.
Our Council and Committees serve a vital role in Messiah's Ministry.
They strive to guide our faithful witness to the Gospel.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:
Carolyn Andersen, Vice-President; Chair of the Nominating Committee
Eleanor Kopperud
Don Myrehaug
Joanne Myrehaug

Treasurer's Report

Looking back at year 2015, Messiah reported \$32,550 in long term debt. Since then, we have paid out certificates owing to estates and Messiah members holding certificates. All remaining certificates have been paid out so Messiah is debt free. Members loaned money to Messiah in the form of certificates to finance the purchase of the AGT building, renovations and the addition of the link. Over the years many certificate holders waived interest or directed it back to offering revenue. We say thank you Messiah members who shared in this visionary process.

More recent, members saw the need to support missions by establishing the Mission Endowment fund for new missions which soon will reach \$90,000. Last year Messiah established the Panoptic Mission Endowment Fund for on-going missions which is about \$25,000.

This year we will have a deficit. While some of it may be due to payout of certificates, the carbon levy has added 40% to GJ of energy consumed heating the two buildings. For 2017-18, the insurance premium increased 16%, \$14,000 to \$17,000.

Messiah has a history of benevolence as reflected in \$70,000 in designated giving to ministries within and outside the community. Our present appeal of capital to upgrade TV ministry equipment, and Refugee commitment, there are exciting missions happening.

Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Ivar Saugen
Treasurer

Audit Report – Financial Year Ending April 30, 2017

During the past 12 months, the Audit Committee conducted the following audit activities:

1. Reviewed salary grids
2. Examined payroll information for all employees
3. Reviewed 2016 T4 slips
4. Confirmed net pay using bank statements
5. Compared bank statements to general ledger for payroll
6. Reviewed bank reconciliations
7. Reviewed bank statements
8. Reconciled a sample of invoices versus cancelled cheques versus the general ledger
9. Compared bank deposits of monthly offerings with general ledger entries
10. Discussed the process for tracking designated offerings
11. Reviewed the list of Reserve Accounts including balances
12. Reviewed the list of online banking payments
13. Reviewed cash receipts on a test basis and determined that they:
 - a) reconciled to the bank deposits
 - b) were used exclusively for church approved projects and programs
 - c) were used in accordance with the donor's designation
 - d) were acknowledged with official receipts
 - e) were recorded in the appropriate general ledger account
14. Reviewed the Financial Statements prepared by Grant Thornton Accounting for the year ending April 30, 2016.
15. Conducted an additional tracking of donations for one randomly selected Sunday.

The Audit Committee plans to review the Financial Statements prepared by Grant Thornton Accounting for the year ending April 30, 2017. These statements will be prepared within the next four months. The above noted review resulted in no significant concerns for the audit committee.

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of Messiah Lutheran Church by the Audit Committee:
David Stolee, Yvonne Myrehaug, and Max Lindstrand (May 9, 2017)



Financial statements
(Unaudited)

Messiah Lutheran Church

April 30, 2016



Grant Thornton

An instinct for growth™

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Notice to Reader

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position for Messiah Lutheran Church as at April 30, 2016 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended.

We have not performed an audit or review engagement in respect of these financial statement and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes

Grant Thornton LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Chartered Accountants

October 25, 2016
Camrose, Canada

Messiah Lutheran Church

Statement of Operations

(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

Year ended April 30

2016

2015

	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue			
Envelopes	\$ 344,800	\$ 360,750	\$ 346,555
Plate	5,500	4,696	6,011
MLC General	6,000	5,325	5,495
Easter	16,500	7,995	8,434
Thanksgiving	9,000	7,015	3,365
Christmas	17,000	11,645	13,079
Festival	3,000	3,320	1,540
Sunday School	-	15	16
Interest	-	409	407
Facility use and fees for service	9,500	8,795	13,265
Other expense recoveries	<u>1,300</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>390</u>
	412,600	410,197	398,557
Designated	-	36,682	97,773
Other designated revenue	<u>700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>413,300</u>	<u>446,879</u>	<u>496,330</u>
Expense			
Benevolences - Schedule 1	26,200	29,379	28,328
Learning - Schedule 2	7,165	3,335	7,865
Service- Schedule 3	1,000	253	161
Support - Schedule 4	112,900	84,126	90,171
Witness - Schedule 5	200	-	74
Worship - Schedule 6	3,700	2,969	3,886
Salaries and benefits - Schedule 7	<u>250,000</u>	<u>201,564</u>	<u>213,543</u>
	401,165	321,626	344,028
Designated - Schedule 8	<u>-</u>	<u>36,682</u>	<u>97,773</u>
	<u>401,165</u>	<u>358,308</u>	<u>441,801</u>
Donations designated for deficit retirement	<u>30.103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of revenue over expense	\$ <u>(17,968)</u>	\$ <u>88,571</u>	\$ <u>54,529</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position

(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)

April 30

2016

2015

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 256,978	\$ 163,105
GST receivable	1,199	1,241
Prepaid expenses	<u>15,127</u>	<u>14,050</u>
	<u>273,304</u>	<u>178,396</u>

Endowment term deposits	88,207	88,207
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Fellowship Center	<u>676,743</u>	<u>676,743</u>
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	<u>\$ 1,038,254</u>	<u>\$ 943,346</u>
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Liabilities

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 13,791	\$ 14,623
Current portion of long term debt	<u>8,000</u>	<u>32,500</u>
	<u>21,791</u>	<u>47,123</u>

Deferred contributions for designated expenditures (Schedule 8)	<u>72,006</u>	<u>68,946</u>
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Net assets

Net assets invested in Fellowship Center	644,244	644,244
Net assets restricted for endowments (Schedule 9)	113,089	88,589
Building debt retirement fund	22,042	17,932
Unrestricted net assets	<u>165,082</u>	<u>76,512</u>
	<u>944,457</u>	<u>827,277</u>

	<u>\$ 1,038,254</u>	<u>\$ 943,346</u>
--	---------------------	-------------------

Approved on behalf of Council

Messiah Lutheran Church

Schedules

(Unaudited - see Notice to Reader)
Year ended April 30, 2016

Schedule 8 - Deferred Contributions

	Balance beginning of year	Receipts	Expenses	Internal transfer	Balance end of year
Designated Expenditures					
Small group	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150
Youth fundraising	12,625	20	2,020	-	10,625
TV ministry	7,157	-	440	-	6,717
World mission group	248	-	248	-	-
Bequest interest	3,307	1,635	1,636	-	3,306
Samaritan fund	1,920	2,850	2,073	-	2,697
Youth gathering and tithe	4,248	-	-	-	4,248
Music	3,765	650	175	-	4,240
Campus ministries	-	159	159	-	-
Music coordinator	150	-	-	-	150
Refugee fund	5,258	2,155	-	-	7,413
VBS	195	-	-	-	195
Family Camp	1,557	5,590	2,894	-	4,253
Coffee fund	100	1,112	1,392	180	-
Capital projects	12,879	1,730	-	(3,648)	10,961
Agencies	-	19,886	19,886	-	-
Friendship club	60	-	-	-	60
Senior pastor initiatives	2,520	-	-	-	2,520
LunchFest	256	1,592	1,547	(180)	121
Sunday school	23	15	-	-	38
Drama group	777	-	-	-	777
Other	2,203	100	(1)	-	2,304
Building access fund	518	-	-	-	518
Major projects	8,395	2,250	-	-	10,645
Hospitality grant	96	-	28	-	68
Computers	537	-	4,185	3,648	-
	<u>\$ 68,944</u>	<u>\$ 39,744</u>	<u>\$ 36,682</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 72,006</u>

Schedule 9 - Net assets restricted for endowments

	2016	2015
Panoptic endowment	\$ 24,500	\$ -
Mission endowment	<u>88,590</u>	<u>88,590</u>
Total	<u>\$ 113,090</u>	<u>\$ 88,590</u>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017/18 BUDGET
April 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	% of Bud	2017/18
Revenue					
Envelopes	327,930	328,000	329,621	100%	340,000
Envelopes NSNO Declared	32,820	33,000	28,205	85%	29,000
Envelope total	360,750	361,000	357,826	99%	369,000
Plate	4,696	4,700	4,453	95%	4,500
MLC general	5,341	5,400	5,055	94%	5,100
Easter	7,995	12,000	7,372	61%	12,000
Lent	-	1,500	260	17%	300
Thanksgiving	7,015	9,000	5,320	59%	9,000
Christmas	11,645	15,000	12,710	85%	15,000
Festival NSNO Declared	3,320	3,400	800	24%	3,400
Music performances		-			-
Facility use and fees# for service	8,795	9,500	7,630	80%	9,500
Expense recoveries	-	1,300	-	0%	1,300
Other recoveries	641	700	333	48%	700
Revenue	410,197	423,500	401,758	95%	429,800
Designated	36682		0		

Total Revenue 446,879 401,758

changed in 2016 not checked

Expenses

Neighbor Aid	1,200	1,200	1,200	100%	1,200
Synod Benevolence	28,179	34,656	34,656	100%	37,080
Salaries & benefits	201,564	280,000	278,915	100%	290,000
Program expenses					
Worship - schedule 1	2,968	4,300	4,285	100%	5,950
Learning - schedule 2	3,335	5,585	3,080	55%	5,510
Witness - schedule 3	-	200	16	8%	200
Service - schedule 4	254	1,000	203	20%	1,000
Support - schedule 5**	84,126	84,100	88,586	105%	96,175
*Capital projects - schedule 5	-	14,000	-	-	4,800
Expenses	321,626		410,942		
Designated	36,682	-	-		-
Total expenses	358,308	425,041	410,942	97%	441,915

*add back in deficit recovery
 expensed throughout year

Excess (expense)income	51,889	(1,541)	(9,184)	(12,115)
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MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017/18 BUDGET
April 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	% of Bud	2017/18
Schedule 1: Worship					
Program expenses					
Chancel care (old "altar guild")		-	0		1,000
Choirs new music	0	350	212	60%	350
Choirs program expenses	15	-	167		50
Choirs student bursary		-			-
Continuing education-carry over		-			500
Copyright license	682	1,200	806	67%	1,200
Eternity for Today	272	350	232	66%	350
Instrument maintenance	337	900	870	97%	900
Organ scholarship		-			-
Worship supplies	1,663	1,500	1,999	133%	1,600
Total program expenses	2,968	4,300	4,285	100%	5,950

Schedule 2: Learning

Program expenses					
Adult education	122	500	48	10%	1,000
Splash (old "baby ministry")	477	500	271	54%	500
Confirmation	898	975	666	68%	1,000
Sunday School	863	1,000	939	94%	800
Family programs	256	200	45	23%	300
Library		100	132	132%	100
Prayer		-			-
Professional development CMC	0	-	0		-
Stewardship programming	0	500	0	0%	200
Training/miscellaneous	0	250	60	24%	50
Video license	661	660	658	100%	660
Vacation Bible school supplies		-			-
Yth Leadership Prof Dev		400		0%	400
Youth transportation		-			-
Youth visitation		-			-
Youth program expenses/misc	58	500	262	52%	500
Total program expenses	3,335	5,585	3,080	55%	5,510

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017/18 BUDGET
April 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Schedule 3: Witness	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	% of Bud	2017/18
Benevolence					
Missionary sponsorship	-	-	-		-
Program expenses					
New members	0	100	0	0%	100
Ministry to inactives		-			-
Outreach		-			-
Programs/Alpha	0	-	16		-
World Mission Group		100		0%	100
Total program expenses	0	200	16	8%	200
Total witness expenses	-	200	16	8%	200

Schedule 4: Service

Benevolence					
NeighborAid	1,200	1,200	1,200	100%	1,200
Program expenses					
Community programs	41	200	0		200
CLWR promotion		100			100
New Ministries		200			200
Refugee support		0			0
Issue exploration		0			0
Small group leadership		0			0
Materials & supplies		0			0
Marriage preparation	77	0	38		0
Ministry with seniors	77	200	36	18%	200
Resource care leaflets		100	129		100
Volunteer appreciation	58	200	0	0%	200
Total program expenses	254	1,000	203	20%	1,000
Total service expenses	1,454	2,200	1,403	64%	2,200

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2017/18 BUDGET
April 30, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Schedule 5: Support	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17	% of Bud	2017/18
Benevolence					
Alberta Synod*	28,179	34,656	34,656	100%	37,080
Seminary student assistance	0	-	0		-
Total benevolence	28,179	34,656	34,656	100%	37,080
Program expenses					
Advertising	304	400	717	179%	400
Audio/visual supplies	1,082	500	2,377	475%	875
Audit/Accountant	2,700	3,500	2,973	85%	3,000
Bank charges/op loans	206	300	192	64%	300
Capital purchase/contingency**	1,455	700	3,039	434%	2,000
Conference dues	510	1,700	510	30%	1,000
Conference-other/pastors' study	587	1,200	1,290	107%	1,200
Counselling supervision	341	900	616	68%	900
Convention-synod/national	2,423	2,500	255	10%	2,000
Custodial supplies	1,904	1,000	1,911	191%	1,200
Church Council miscellaneous	1,404	900	569	63%	900
Inspections/Maintenance	6,621	5,600	7,011	125%	7,000
Insurance	14,967	16,000	16,125	101%	16,000
Offering envelopes	519	500	365	73%	400
Office equipment lease	4,612	5,000	5,288	106%	5,600
Office library	0	200	0	0%	200
Office supplies	4,651	5,000	5,062	101%	5,000
Postage & shipping	1,508	1,700	1,350	79%	1,500
Repairs & maintenance	5,650	8,000	5,741	72%	8,000
R & M Computer/telephones			2,457		2,000
Software agreements	665	700	667	95%	700
Staff/lay development	0	400	400	100%	400
Stewardship New Proj to Learning		-			-
Taxes & improvements		-			-
Telephone*	3,558	3,500	3,599	103%	3,700
Utilities-electricity*	8,190	10,000	8,089	81%	9,000
Utilities-heating fuel*	9,767	10,000	14,272	143%	19,000
Utilities-water & sewer*	2,639	3,000	3,338	111%	3,000
Volunteer screening	176	200	65	33%	200
Website	57	200	0	0%	200
Staff retreat		500	300	60%	500
Call committee recruiting/moving^	7,628	-	9		-
Total program expenses	84,126	84,100	88,586	105%	96,175
Capital projects	0	3,500	0	0%	3,500
AV capital	0	2,500	0		1,300
Use des fonds avail (deficit recovery)	0	8,000	0	0%	0
Total capital projects	-	14,000	-	-	4,800
Total support expenses	84,126	132,756	123,242	93%	138,055

Analysis of Messiah's Proposed Stewardship of its Proposed Resources 2017-2018

		% of Total			
Salaries and Wages for Staff		\$290,000	66%	*Building/Capital	
				AV Capital	1,300
				Custodial Supplies	1,200
				Inspections/maintenance	7,000
				Insurance	16,000
				Repairs & maintenance	10,000
				Utilities-electricity	9,000
				Utilities-heating fuel	19,000
				Utilities-water/sewer	3,000
				Capital purchase/contingency	2,000
				Capital Projects	<u>3,500</u>
					72,000
Program					
Learning Committee	5,310				
Stewardship Plans	200				
Service Committee	1,000				
Neighbor Aid Support	1,200				
Witnessing Committee	200				
Worship Committee	<u>5,950</u>				
Total	13,860	13,860	3%		
In Support of All Ministries - Support Committee					
Synod	37,080	8%	**Office		
			Advertising	400	
Building/Capital*	72,000	16%	Audio/Visual supplies	875	
			Audit	3,000	
Office**	21,875	5%	Bank charges/op loans	300	
			Offering envelopes	400	
General Ministry Support***	7,100	2%	Office equipment lease	5,600	
			Office library	200	
Restore Designated gifts	<u>0</u>	<u>0%</u>	Office Supplies	5,000	
			Postage & shipping	1,500	
Total	\$441,915	100%	Software agreements	700	
			Telephone	3,700	
Check from Summary Page	441,915		Website	<u>200</u>	
				21,875	
***General Ministry Support					
				Chur Coun Miscellaneous	900
				Conference Dues	1,000
				Pastor's Study Conference	1,200
				Counselling Supervision	900
				Conventions	2,000
				Staff/lay development	400
				Volunteer screening	200
				Staff retreat	500
				Call Committee recruiting	<u>0</u>
					7,100

Messiah Lutheran Church 2016-2017 Financial Report (unaudited)					
	At			Internally	At
DESIGNATED FUNDS	Apr 30, 2016	Received	Disbursed	transferred	Apr 30, 2017
Building Access Fund	518.38	0.00	0.00		518.38
Capital Projects Upgrades	10,961.01	6,070.00	0.00	0.00	17,031.01
CP TV Ministry Upgrades	0.00	15,676.70	0.00	0.00	15,676.70
CP Sanctuary Flooring	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Coffee/Lunch Fund	120.00	3,732.45	2,267.70	-1,084.75	500.00
College & Careers	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Computers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Drama Group	777.28	0.00	0.00		777.28
Education	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Endowment Fund (new mission	88,589.85	170.62	0.00	-25,382.37	63,378.10
Interest Endowmt Fund-Missi	3,305.75	995.00	253.79		4,046.96
Endowment Fund (panoptic)	24,500.00	4,000.00	0.00	25,382.37	53,882.37
Interest Endowmt Fund-panoptic	0.00	633.85	0.00		633.85
Friendship Club	60.00	0.00	0.00		60.00
Major Projects Fund	10,645.00	3,400.00	0.00		14,045.00
Misc/Other	2,302.34	15,306.92	0.00		17,609.26
Music Fees	150.00	0.00	0.00		150.00
Music	4,239.60	45.00	0.00		4,284.60
Project Flood Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Project (DB Hospitality)	68.41	0.00	36.48		31.93
Proj Sen Pastor initiatives	2,520.00	0.00	615.00		1,905.00
Refugee Support	7,412.52	4,035.00	0.00	1,084.75	12,532.27
Proj Family Camp	4,252.89	1,130.00	3,833.81		1,549.08
Samaritan Fund	2,696.53	4,032.12	2,790.27		3,938.38
Small group resources	150.00	0.00	0.00		150.00
Sunday School (KidFEST)	38.63	0.00	0.00		38.63
TV Ministry/Sound System	6,717.78	115.00	0.00		6,832.78
VBS	194.73	0.00	0.00		194.73
World Missions Group	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Youth Fundraising	10,625.13	0.00	0.00		10,625.13
Youth Gath/Missions trip	2,373.04	0.00	0.00		2,373.04
Youth Tithe	1,875.06	0.00	0.00		1,875.06
Current yr reserves Bldg Debt ret	22,041.70	170.00	0.00		22,211.70
Other:	0.00				0.00
IMW El Salvador	0.00	6,850.00	6,850.00		0.00
other outside charity	0.00	500.00	500.00		0.00
campus ministry	0.00	135.20	135.20		0.00
CLWR	0.00	7,952.45	7,952.45		0.00
Refugee Family Support	0.00	15,320.50	0.00		15,320.50
Total	207,135.63	90,270.81	25,234.70	0.00	272,171.74

Note: Designated fund reserves less endowment fund and building debt:

117,379.07

Worship for a Congregational Annual Meeting

OPENING

ACKNOWLEDGE: We begin by acknowledging that we gather on Treaty _____ Territory that is the traditional territory of the _____ {Indigenous People} who have called it home for thousands of years.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:18–19

SING: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #692
We Are An Offering

LEADER:

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada lifts up the theme adopted by The Lutheran World Federation, *Liberated by God's Grace*. This theme "tells us of the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens up opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as healers and as people able to reconcile to a world torn apart by strife and inequality."¹

As we begin our Annual General Meeting, let us pray together using the response, *Liberated by God's Grace*, to remind ourselves of the grace, love, and care for all of creation that we

are called to together and our responsibility to be *In Mission for Others*.

PRAY:

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this time to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family,
Liberated by God's Grace.

Creator God, you have equipped our church with a rich variety of gifts. Help us to be mindful of the needs of our neighbours, near and far, and remind us of our call to be *In Mission for Others*,
Liberated by God's Grace.

We pray for guidance as we consider those matters before us today and ask that you would show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Help us to encourage one another and come together to serve you with gladness,
Liberated by God's Grace.

All this we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

¹ <http://www.lwfassembly.org/node/15>

CLOSING

SING: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #641
All Are Welcome

PRAY:

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for this gift you have given us to be able to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family.

Strengthen and sustain those called to be leaders in our church. We include in our prayers, our National Bishop

Susan Johnson, our Synod Bishop _____, our congregation's rostered leader(s) _____, our congregation's staff, and all those called to be council members, committee members, Sunday School leaders, worship leaders, {insert other leaders in your congregation}. Empower your servants in their calling; help them to hear your call to be *In Mission for Others* and to serve with grace and gratitude.

Send us forth to be a blessing to others,
Liberated by God's Grace!

Amen.



Live Simply
TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE
LIVE SIMPLY 2017

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