

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CAMROSE

Sharing Jesus Christ with All People



2020

-

2021

CONGREGATIONAL

Annual Report



*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

Dear Beloved 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.

These past months have been a season of incredible change.

Our patterns of life, as we have known them, continue to be disrupted and there is much anxiety around and within us. There is an increased awareness of many issues in our lives, our communities, and world, which for many had existed unobserved, silent, hidden, ignored. Employment needs, violence, mental health concerns, food security issues, racism, climate change, deaths, losses of many kinds....

At the same time, these past months have accelerated the movement of the church into profoundly adaptive changes and challenges and opportunities, which needed to be addressed in order to be vital communities of witness to Jesus in the 21st century.

I am realizing that the “new normal” is not something we have to still envisage in a time to come; the new normal is already among us.

There are new opportunities and possibilities before us, including recommitting to a missional model of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting, and learning, while continuing to ask the questions: where is God in our neighborhood? our community? our world? And equally important: how might we join God in God’s mission?

I continue to be grateful and encouraged by the amazing resilience of congregational leaders, lay and rostered who under extraordinary stress, pressure and restraints have poured themselves into the work of leadership; and though tired and weary and wondering, have reached out to one another, and to those in their midst, providing pastoral care, connection, compassion and care.

And our synod and church, working together in ways that witness to the Spirit of God among us. The Day of Pentecost synod-wide video and the Reign of Christ synod-wide worship service. Joint correspondence from national and synod treasurers, and from national and synod bishops. Sharing of resources and experience.

Creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

I urge you, during your Annual General Meeting, and at other times, to continue to be in conversation together. Conversation as lay and rostered leaders and congregational members, as well as across your Synodical Area and together throughout our Synod.

I offer the following questions again for reflection and discussion. In considering these questions, keep in mind not just worship, but spiritual life, faith formation, service to the neighbor, and relationships in general as the body of Christ along the continuum that includes both physical and digitally mediated presence to one another.

What is God calling us to be and do in the time ahead? What is God's purpose for us – what is God's mission through us – moving forward?

What have we learned during the past months about what is important in our life together as the body of Christ? How might we use this knowledge to shape how we will live, work, and serve together? What might we bring into the future from this experience?

What new skills have we learned? What other skills and gifts will we need to embrace a new future?

How might our theological, denomination, and biblical perspective and traditions inform how we move forward?

What are the things that seemed so important before the coronavirus crisis that we might give less attention to, or let go of, altogether?

When you meet, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers 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 the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

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.

As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

Receive and share the 2021 Synod Narrative Budget. (page 8)

Review the Synod Council Meeting "Talking Points"
(<https://albertasynod.ca/synod-council-highlights/>)

Subscribe to our Synod's e-mail newsletter: Wednesday's Word, Subscribing is easy on our Synod's website

Participate in learning and conversation the second Thursday (noon-1pm) of each month through Synod Connect

As we journey together join me in prayer. Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbors.

Know that I continue to be inspired and excited by the creative ways in which you have proclaimed the Gospel, offered pastoral care, knit together the body of Christ, and served the neighbor in our current reality.

Know that you are held in prayer.

Most importantly, know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

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-

Shalom,

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Spirit-Led Leadership

Hope-Filled Discipleship

Innovative Tradition

Collaborative Partnerships

Romans 15.13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Our Ministry Story 2021

SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP

is characterized by trust in the Holy Spirit who "calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in true faith."



Synod office staff "Wear it, Share It", in support of LWF's Rapid Relief Fund.

HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP

is expressed through ministries which embrace the diversity of all participants and the unity of the body of Christ working together for the glory of God.



Campus Ministry Retreat: making music, nurturing faith in community.

INNOVATIVE TRADITION

is embraced and uplifted as an expression of God at work in and through the Synod.



Candidacy committee walking with ministry candidates "at a safe distance."

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

reflect the communion of saints and the interconnected nature of the Triune God as witness to the restoration, redemption and reconciliation of the world.



St. Andrew's Anglican/Zion Lutheran, Colinton: committed to shared ministry.

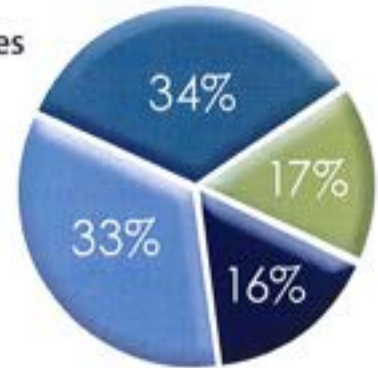
OUR VALUED PARTNERS INCLUDE: Anglican Church of Canada, Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Greater Edmonton Alliance, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, KAIROS, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches.



2021 Synod of Alberta and the Territories Budget

The Synod's 2021 budget of **\$685,000** supports ministries carried out under the umbrella of four Mission Priorities.

Spirit-Led Leadership – 34%
Hope-Filled Discipleship – 17%
Innovative Traditions – 16%
Collaborative Partnerships – 33%



Signs of our Synod community, thriving in challenging times

Counterclockwise from top left: Baptismal liturgy begins outdoors, Grace, Bentley. Preaching while social distancing, Rev. Kirk Tastad, Holy Family, Yellowknife. Ordination & installation of Rev. Erin Thomas, Trinity, Edmonton. Bells ring weekly in support and encouragement, Rev. Colin Millang, Redeemer, Hanna. Ordination of Rev. Katherine Zaiser, All Saints, Calgary. Set up for online worship, Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer. Online VBS storytime with Marla M., Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge. Evening Compline online, Rev. Phil Penrod, Our Savior, Edmonton. Worship perspective from the altar, Lakeland, Cold Lake. Good Friday drive-through Stations of the Cross, St. Paul's, Ellerslie, Edmonton.

Holy Family

I hope how you actually gave this service from the water. Very appropriate words at this time of darkness. Thank you, Rev. Tastad!



All photos used with permission.

THANK YOU for your benevolence offerings, which, combined with those received from other congregations across the Synod, are vitally important and crucial to funding the Synod's ministries in 2021.

Agenda
Annual Congregational Meeting
June 6, 2021 7:00 pm via ZOOM

1. Welcome and Call to Order: Charlene Brown

2. Opening Devotions: Pastor Calvin Skriver (back cover)

3. Motion to Hold Meeting via ZOOM

4. Consideration and Adoption of Agenda

5. Review of Congregational Meeting Minutes

5.1. Annual Congregational Meeting of June 14, 2020

6. Consideration of Reports

6.1. Report of the Senior Pastor

6.2. Report of the Associate Pastor

6.3. Officers' Reports

6.4. Reports of the Committees

6.5. Report of the Auxiliary

6.6. Other Reports

6.7. Congregational Statistics

7. Organizational Matters

7.1. Report of the Nominating Group and Elections

Installation of those elected will be announced later, depending on resumption of regular worship services.

The **Annual Planning Meeting** Phase 1: Committees are asked to arrange to meet as soon as possible to compile contact information and elect a Chair and a Secretary of the Committee.

Please give these to Lori at the church office. Phase 2: To Be Announced - This meeting involves all members of Church Council and Standing Committee Chairs: Learning, Service, Support, Witnessing and Worship.

7.2 Addition to Bylaws

That proposed Bylaws 2.11 and 4.5 concerning Conflict of Interest (see page 39) be presented for consideration.

8. Endowment Funds Interest

8.1. Mission Endowment Fund:

That Mission Endowment interest funds for this year go to

8.2. Panoptic Endowment Fund:

That accumulated Panoptic Endowment interest funds go to the Messiah World Mission Group to be assigned to the support of needy children attending the schools of the Lutheran Church in Columbia.

9. Financial Matters

9.1. Motion for authorized signatories for charitable donation receipts

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

9.2. Motion for Appointment of Auditors

9.2.1. That Messiah use an Internal Audit for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

9.2.2. That _____, _____ and _____ be appointed to the Audit Group as auditors for Messiah Lutheran Church for the year ending April 30, 2022.

10. 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.

11. Financial Report and Recommended Budget

12. Concluding Remarks

13. Closing Devotions: Pastor Bev Swanson (back cover)

14. Adjournment

Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
June 14, 2020 7:00 pm via ZOOM

1. Congregation President, Odell Olson, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.
2. Pastor Calvin Skriver opened with the devotions as printed on the back cover of the Annual Report.
3. **MSC (Ron Foshaug/Jonathan Hawkins)** that we hold the meeting via ZOOM.

4. Agenda

MSC (David Dahle/David Larson) that the agenda be adopted as printed.

5. Minutes

5.1. MSC (Jonathan Hawkins/Dena Grue) that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of June 9, 2019 be adopted as presented.

5.2. MSC (Charlene Brown/Milton Gilbertson) that the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of December 8, 2019 be adopted as printed.

6. Reports

6.1. Report of the Senior Pastor

As printed in the Annual Report with no further comments or questions.

6.2. Report of the Associate Pastor

As printed in the Annual Report with no further comments or questions.

6.3. Officers' Reports

As printed in Annual Report with no further questions or comments.

6.4. Reports of the Committees

Learning Committee: As printed in the Annual Report with the added announcement that plans are afoot to sponsor an Alpha program in the Fall.

Service Committee: As printed in the Annual Report. Request was noted to add Una Opelo as a continuing member, and Donny Loewen as a new member of the Service Committee.

Support Committee: As printed in the Annual Report. The chairperson noted that although the committee is pleased with the work done on the new roof, moisture is still getting into the building. This is being investigated.

Witnessing Committee: As printed in the Annual Report. The chairperson commented that due to Covid-19, a decision is still pending on the tradition of serving Wednesday morning coffee on the lawn during July and August.

World Mission Group: As printed in the Annual Report with typographical correction on chart heading on page 30: 2019 becomes 2020.

Refugee Support Group: As printed in the Annual Report. A chairperson has been found to coordinate the group.

Camrose Refugee Centre: As printed in the Annual Report.

Worship Committee: As printed in the Annual Report. The Committee will be reviewing how and when Messiah might re-open for public worship. A request has been submitted for some of the masks the government is offering free of charge to worshipping communities.

6.5. Report of the Auxiliary

Messiah Lutheran Women: As printed with no further questions. The congregation President expressed appreciation for the work done and support provided to many causes.

6.6. Other Reports

Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp: As printed in the Annual Report with no further comments or questions.

6.7. Congregational Statistics

Received as printed with no questions or comments.

MSC (David Dahle/David Larson) that the reports be accepted.

7. Organizational Matters

7.1. Report of the Nominating Group and Elections

The vice-President presented the Nominating Group Report and noted the following changes: Service - Add Una Opelo (continuing) and Donny Loewen; Support - correct spelling of Hoybak; Worship - Add Cheryl Nester

She noted that we still do not have a Treasurer. There were no last-minute nominations nor volunteers. The search will continue.

MSC (Dena Grue/Helga Jensen) to accept the slate of officers and committee members as amended.

Installation of those elected will be announced later, depending on resumption of regular worship services.

The Annual Planning Meeting

Phase 1: Committees are asked to arrange to meet as soon as possible to compile contact information and elect a Chair and a Secretary of the Committee. Please give these to Lori at the church office.

Phase 2: To Be Announced - This meeting involves all members of Church Council and Standing Committee Chairs: Learning, Service, Support, Witnessing and Worship.

8. Endowment Funds Interest

8.1.MSC (Donny Loewen/Ray Blacklock) that Mission Endowment interest funds for this year go to support the Alpha program.

8.2. MSC (Ray Blacklock/Erhard Pinno) that accumulated Panoptic Endowment interest funds go to Student Scholarships for Lutheran Schools in Colombia.

9. Financial Matters

9.1. MSC (David Larson/Don Myrehaug) that any one of the following be authorized to sign charitable receipts for Messiah Lutheran Church: 1) Mary Broen 2) Bookkeeper 3) Treasurer 4) MLW Treasurer

9.2.1 MSC (David Larson/Don Rebus) that Messiah use an Internal Audit for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

9.2.2.MSC (Don Rebus/Ivar Saugen) that Max Lindstrand, Yvonne Myrehaug, and Dave Stolee be appointed to the Audit Committee as auditors for Messiah Lutheran Church for the year ending April 30, 2021

10. Signing authority MSC (Jonathan Hawkins/Lue Lindseth) that any two of the following be appointed to sign cheques for Messiah Lutheran Church: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Bookkeeper.

11. Financial Report and Recommended Budget

The Treasurer noted in his report that some items have been moved from operational to capital expenses and that a maintenance fund has been established. These items may now be paid from capital funds.

MSC (Charlene Brown/Elaine Taylor) that the 2020-21 budget be accepted as presented.

The Bookkeeper informed the meeting that a 10% payroll wage subsidy was received from the Government and has been applied. There is no information as to any extension beyond June.

It was noted that the appropriate term for those helping to develop the budget is "Group", rather than "Committee".

12. Concluding Remarks

There being no other business, the President thanked everyone for braving the new technology and declared the meeting adjourned following closing devotions.

13. Closing Devotions: Pastor Bev Swanson (back cover)

Pastor Bev led devotions.

14. Adjournment at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Stolee
Council Secretary

Attachments:
2020-2021 Council and Committee Members (page 13)
2020-2021 Budget (page 14)
List of Voting Members Present (page 15)



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose 2020 - 2021 Council and Committee Members

Church Council

President

Charlene Brown to June 2022

Vice-President

David Dahle to June 2022

Secretary

Gail Stolee to June 2021

Treasurer

Vacant * to vacant

Members at Large

Carolyn Andersen to June 2021

Chris Hohm * (moved to Treasurer position during the year) to June 2022

Dave Larson to June 2022

Donny Loewen to June 2022

Vacant to vacant

Committees

Learning Committee

Karen Hansen, Helga Jensen, Dianne Nigh, Karen Olson, Dave Stolee..to June 2022

Service Committee

Una Opelo, Don Rebus to June 2021

Sharon Gilbertson, Donny Loewen, Margo McPhail, Ben & Bev Thomas,
Bonnie Smith & Ralph Van Assen to June 2022

Support Committee

Lois Larson, Don Saltvold to June 2021

Ron Foshaug, Milt Gilbertson, Carl Hoybak, Don Myrehaug, Gord Myrehaug,
Dale Swanson to June 2022

Witnessing Committee

Shirley Loewen, Leann Reinhart, Letha Saltvold, Cecelia Watts..... to June 2021

Stacey Haugen, Erhard Pinno, Ken Skriver..... to June 2022

Worship Committee

Dena Grue, Lue Lindseth, Lori Skriver to June 2021

Darlene Dahle, Rosanna Hohm, Cheryl Nester to June 2022

Stepped back or resigned during the year.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2020/21 BUDGET
To April 30, 2021

	Budget
	2020/21
Revenue	
Envelopes	341,000
Envelopes NSNO Declared	25,000
Envelope total	366,000
Plate	3,600
MLC general	9,150
Easter	9,000
Lent	
Thanksgiving	8,600
Christmas	14,300
Festival NSNO Declared	-
Music performances	-
Facility use and fees# for service	7,500
Expense recoveries	
Other recoveries**	400
Operating Revenue	418,550
*Restricted Donations	
Revenue	418,550

*change in accounting procedures

**includes common share interest

Expenses	
Neighbor Aid	2,400
Synod Benevolence	36,163
***Salaries & benefits	304,000
Program expenses	
Worship - schedule 1	5,150
Learning - schedule 2	3,900
Witness - schedule 3	200
Service - schedule 4	800
Support - schedule 5**	69,670
Capital projects - schedule 5	-
Expenses	422,283
Designated	-
Total expenses	422,283

***saved approx \$7000 (bookkeeper time off for surgery and the CEWS Canada Wage Subsidy due to COVID)

Excess (deficit) income	(3,733)
Restricted funds transferred	
Excess (def) operating income	(3,733)

Voting Members Present at the Annual Congregational Meeting Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose, June 14, 2020

***Designates a Non-Voting Member (ie. Staff, President of Congregation) or Adherent**

Carolyn Andersen
Fran Beattie
Robert Beattie
Sheila Becker*
Norma Blacklock
Ray Blacklock
Jim Brager
Marie Brager
Mary Broen
Lavona Broen
Lorne Broen
Charlene Brown
Neil Brown
Darlene Dahle
David Dahle
Mary Ellen Eriksson
Vincent Eriksson
Sylvia Espe
Loretta Foshaug
Ron Foshaug
Milt Gilbertson
Nora Gilbertson
Sharon Gilbertson
Dena Grue
Alice Haldorson
Signe Harder
John Harder*
Jonathan Hawkins
Michelle Kennedy Hawkins
Chris Hohm
Juanita Hohm
Rosanna Heise Hohm
Agnes Hoveland
Laverne Hoveland
Marilyn Hoveland
Helga Jensen
Ioan Jober
Eleanor Kopperud
Dave Larson
Lue Lindseth
Alice Lindstrand
Max Lindstrand
Donny Loewen
Shirley Loewen
Vi Madison
Lori Mokry*
Don Myrehaug
Joanne Myrehaug
Frieda Ness
Ruth Ofrim

Carolyn Olson*
Karen Olson
Kiva Olson
Lloyd Olson*
Odell Olson*
Erhard Pinno
Don Rebus
Brian Reinhart*
Dave Rogers*
Patricia Rogers
Don Saltvold
Letha Saltvold
Carole Saugen
Ivar Saugen
Arlene Skriver
Pastor Calvin Skriver*
Ken Skriver
Lori Skriver
Maria Skriver
Mark Skriver
Berniece Sogge
Gail Stolee
Pastor Bev Swanson*
Dale Swanson
Cece Watts



PASTORAL REPORTS

Senior Pastor

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!**

Psalm 118:1

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

This has been a very difficult year! We all know this, but it is important to acknowledge what we have been through and not gloss over the impact this year has had on us and on the world. In the midst of this, we still know and acknowledge that God is good and his steadfast love endures.

The psalmist knows that there is a wide range of experience that we go through as human beings – and even as children of God. We begin with thanks because an attitude of thankfulness is so beneficial to our health and wellbeing. But goodness is not all that we experience. There are also difficulties: enemies, health challenges, cycle of nature (cold, storms, drought, wind, heat, and so on), financial challenges (job loss, inflation, things to repair, bills to pay) and who knows what else! But even in difficulties that can seem insurmountable God is present and good and supporting. In the end, we have the assurance that even that which goes so terribly wrong will be used by God to build something wonderful and enduring – God is good.

Thanks be to God (and all of you) for the continued support that Messiah Lutheran has continued to receive through this past year. With our pews basically empty for more than a year, we are grateful that so many have been able to continue to remember the church in their prayers and with their pocketbooks. We pray for those who have been affected negatively in this past year (mentally, spiritually, physically and financially) and ask that God support and bring them through to a healthy future.

Our worship continues to be broadcast on EastLink and on YouTube. This was a wonderful gift that we had coming into the pandemic and has stepped up to become a very important way for us to make connections with each other and the Word of God. There have been pains along the way, but the Word is shared in song, prayer and proclamation. We have come to know much more about how to create and share videos to enhance our worship time – I suspect some of those skills will continue to enhance our worship into the future, even when we are able to return to in-person worship.

Our connections in this past year have looked very different. Some people may be very much less connected than they used to be, but others have been able to participate in ways they had not been able before. Zoom has opened up opportunity for people in other parts of the world to join with us in worship and study and visiting. If you have not been able to connect in, and would like to try get connected technically, please give the office a call and we will do our best to get you connected up in a safe way. I also encourage each of you to reach out to others in some way. Maybe you can make a contact with someone who is desperately in need of some connection with another person.

We have begun to gather people who would like to help along with people who could use some help (sometimes a person can fit into both categories). “Can We Help?” is the tagline for this group and you are invited to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable. Mowing a lawn, changing a light bulb, a small bit of maintenance, help

with a move, a friendly smile, a safe stroll along a path – these are examples of things where we might help or be helped.

In the meantime, people have continued to be born, get married, graduate, die and get sick. Pastoral care has certainly been affected. I have not been able to visit in hospitals or care homes and even for the most part in people's homes. Care has been mostly limited to phone calls and brief visits, physically distanced, often outside. This has been difficult for everyone.

I, myself, have been affected by all of this. For a period in December and January I was off on short term disability due to depression. There are still some residual affects but I can function. I suspect that I am not the only one affected in such ways. Thanks be to God for healthcare professionals and medical knowledge. If *you* are suffering, be sure to reach out – and be sure to thank those who care for others.

We continue to attempt to find ways to collaborate with other congregations in our vicinity. The Synod office along with our Area Council have been facilitating discussions of possibilities – but in these times where we have limited ability to meet together, the progress is slow. Thank you to those who have participated in meetings and pray for God's guidance in the process.

We have also begun a discernment process within Council for Messiah. The whole congregation will be invited to participate. We desire to know what God has in mind for us. What changes will result from the pandemic? What changes that have begun over the last number of years will begin to accelerate and where might those changes lead us? How is God in the midst of that and how do we continue to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in our community and in the world? Discernment will take silence in our minds and hearts as we try to listen to what God is saying. Discernment may take directions we will be surprised about. Discernment may involve us making mistakes. One thing we do know is that the steadfast love of God will not leave us standing still, but will shape, mould and change us to become what God intends us to be.

Thank you to Council for their leadership in this difficult year. Thank you to all who have served on Committees and Groups and as volunteers for the myriad of things that need to be done. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help out with all the things around worship: singing, instrumentals, technical, reading, preparing messages, helping with constructive comments. Thank you for financial support to ensure that this ministry continues to function. Thank you to all the staff for all their hard work in these difficult times! Thank you: Bev, Tova, Sheila, Lloyd, Carolyn, Lowell, Shirley, and especially Lori for holding so much together in the background and keeping us all focused.

Thank you all for prayers of support, healing, wisdom, concern and encouragement.

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Psalm 118:29

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Calvin Skriver



Associate Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing this report while looking back over what has been the strangest year in the history of this church. Never before have we closed our doors to bring safety to our congregational members.

The pandemic has put a very new spin on ministry here at Messiah Lutheran Church. Some of it has been so painful, as we could not gather together in person for worship. Worship has been held virtually along with the many services in between. These are painful losses for all of us. There has been a sadness as we have not been able to gather together and care for one another as we have done for decades. We have experienced the losses of loved ones from Covid and in other ways, and have not been able to visit and to grieve in our regular ways. We have not been able to have wedding celebrations with many friends attending. Our youth did not have their confirmation last spring and our graduates had to find other creative ways to celebrate. These are huge losses for our youth. But this is not news to any of us.

In spite of these losses, we have thrived. I feel like we have reached beyond the walls of this church building we call "Messiah" and learned to be church in unique ways. We have come to understand church as the body of Christ in a very tangible way. We have moved out of our comfort zones to connect and be present with one another. In some ways we have gotten better at connecting with others because of this. We have come to understand that through the Spirit we are connected no matter what is going on in our lives or whether we can meet in person at all.

My ministry has continued as it has for many years, but there have been some new and innovative ways I have had to be present with our congregation. This includes doing pastoral care and counseling by going for walks, sitting in a large room very safely distanced and meeting on Zoom. This has meant that our confirmation class has met by Zoom for this whole last year. It has meant that I have had to learn how to lead groups effectively online. (I am learning lol) I have led a Bible Study on Philippians, an Advent Devotional, a Lenten devotional focused on prayer and at the present a devotional that connects us with our creator and God's connection with us through creation. These connections have given us huge opportunities to share God's word and connect as people of God. I have also been involved in our Alpha program as a co-leader and as support for our Alpha leadership. All of these small group opportunities have enriched our connection as a people of God and I have been so blessed to have been a part of them. I am also a part of 3 committees: Worship, Learning and Witnessing and attend our World Mission Group.

The rest of our ministry which includes leading worship and preaching and planning for worship has continued, but in a format that is different as we have worshipped with many of you out there on YouTube and television. It is a much different experience, but I have gotten used to realizing that you are all there taking part in worship and connecting in the Spirit. The church pews are empty and the room feels empty, but I have come to be warmed in my heart by your presence through the Holy Spirit that I sense is always there. We have enlarged our worshipping community through our virtual worship. It's a learning curve but it's not all bad.

I also look for other ways to connect with our people. Of course, the good old phone calls make such a great connection. I take regular and purposeful walks around the lake and on my way I find many of you there and opportunities to connect. We wave at one another on the path and from our balconies. We are always so incredibly happy to

see the faces of one another. We have grown to appreciate one another in ways we never would have before.

What a celebration it will be when we can gather unmasked and sing our hearts out and eat and break bread together!! We have gained a new appreciation for one another. I have such an appreciation for each one of you. Thankyou.

As we re-open our physical church doors, we will look at ministry in a different way. We will see one another in a new way. We will appreciate the gift of one another like never before. But we also have an opportunity to continue the outreach in our communities that we have begun. We need to now discern where our Lord wants to lead us now. There will be old ways made new and new ways that become our new way of being Jesus Christ for all people.

I thank you this year for the many ways you have been partners in ministry together during this pandemic. I thank you for the ways you have shown care to one another and connected with others you had not even met before. It's a new world and our Lord is with us... paving the way before us!

Isaiah 43:19 invites us into this new year... with these words. *"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

Indeed, our God is with us... and is bringing new life into our midst. Thanks be to God!!

Let us press on dear friends... so that all may know the love of God for them!

In Humble Gratitude for all of you and in ministry together with you,

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Bev Swanson



STAFF REPORTS

Audio-Video Ministry Coordinator

*"8 All things are wearisome;
more than one can express;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
or the ear filled with hearing.
9 What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done;
there is nothing new under the sun."* Ecclesiastes 1:8-9 NRSV

Times like these feel wearisome, don't they?

Through it all, I again express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the capacity of Audio-Video Ministry Coordinator at Messiah.

It has been wearisome time for many of us this year for many different reasons. Some of us are working harder than ever, waiting for countless hours of labour to finally come to fruition. Others are weary in the waiting to do something, anything resembling the joy once felt in serving in the old and familiar ways.

Like most of you, the Audio-Video ministry at Messiah has been stretched like no other time. We feel both great joy and much responsibility in distributing your spiritual food via YouTube and on Cable TV. We work hard to do this so we may all worship together in the safest way possible,

I am keenly aware that the recorded services are a mere reflection of the fellowship we all truly long for. *"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known."* - 1 Corinthians 13:12 NRSV

Looking forward to a return of the face to face.

We also know that this season will not last forever. Ecclesiastes 3 talks about these seasons. *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"*

The commitment of Messiah to television ministry in the past put us in a great place to distribute our services around the world in the present throughout this pandemic. The continued support has been very generous and is deeply appreciated.

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 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.

And to those who are still weary, I think you may have guessed my next bible verse words of encouragement.

*but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31- NRSV*

Respectfully submitted,
Lowell Dahlman
Audio-Video Ministry Coordinator



Music Ministry Coordinator

Well, this has been quite the year! Definitely cannot compare it to any other year in my history. While this year has had many challenges, I have been truly blessed with an amazing worship team that has faithfully worked every week to learn new songs, bring their creativity and skills to the table to create creative and meaningful worship. This has brought much laughter and smiles to me. There is no way I could have done this last year without them. So, a big thank you to Keysha Swanson, Juanita and Andrew Hohm, Caleb Hawkins, Lael, Kiva, Lloyd and Carolyn Olson. Also, a big thank you to all

the tech people who have done so much through many technical challenges to bring the worship service to all of you! And an especially big thank you to Dale Swanson for countless hours sorting out numerous tech issues, hours on tech calls and invaluable advice on the tech parts of my job.

Thank you also for the many notes of encouragement and how the services have touched you. It has been a blessing receiving these as it lets us know the ministry we are doing has found a resting place. They also give us energy to continue what we are doing.



This last year has made me see certain things in a different light, or from a different angle. Maybe it has for you also. We have been so blessed in Canada for many things that we daily take for granted: food on the table, a roof over our heads, money in the bank, more clothes than we could ever wear at once in the closet, extra money to buy non-necessities, take vacations to exotic places and go out for fancy meals. Many of us don't even blink an eye at paying \$5 for a cup of Starbucks coffee. I think many of us have also taken for granted the religious freedom that we have been blessed with in this country for so many generations - a country that up until recently was considered a Christian nation.

As many of you know, I lived in South Korea for a couple years. The church I went to regularly had missionaries from China and North Korea come and tell their stories. Stories that were so foreign to me - of Christians having to sneak to meet with other believers, hiding their Bibles, and knowing each day that their lives were at stake just because of who they believed in. As this year has progressed, I have seen things happen in our country that I never would have dreamed could happen in either Alberta or Canada - the land of the strong and free as our national anthem says. As of writing this, Alberta has had three Pastors end up in jail for leading services, feeding the poor and living out their faith. No matter where you stand on the situation at hand is not the main point. What keeps me up at night is where on the slippery slope we are as a nation and as individual Christians. Thankfully I have never been placed in a situation where my life or liberty was on the line just because of what I believed, but that day may come and if so, what would I do? What would you do? Would I help a neighbour who didn't have enough food to eat or a place to stay if it meant I might be placed in jeopardy? Would you? Would I have the courage to stand up for the truth even if it meant going against the majority? Would you? I have never had to think about these questions before. Have you?

What I do know from this year is that meeting together with other Christians is so much more important than I think any of us realized. Until something is taken away from us, we rarely know how much of an impact it plays in and on our life. Talking with people face to face, holding hands and praying together, singing and worshiping together, giving hugs and holding people who are grieving. These are the things that cement us together as a community and give us the strength to face the world. While I am very grateful for the technology we have that has given us the capability of continuing to connect, there is something powerful that happens when believers come together in the same room to worship together. I cannot wait to hear you all sing 'Amazing Grace' and 'How Great Thou Art' in four-part harmony again. Just thinking about it brings tears to my eyes. Know that we as staff are praying for each one of you, our family.

Until we meet again...
Respectfully submitted,
Tova Olson, Music Ministry Coordinator



Pastoral Acts: January 1 - December 31, 2020

Baptisms (9)

Jack Etty, Jaxton Erickson (Bawlf Lutheran Church), Carson Skriver, Kathy Andreas, Rayanne Delainey, Emma-Jean Delainey, Jacob Snyders, Keegen Andreas, Maliah Foshaug



Confirmation (0)

New Members (12)

Norma Anderson, Robert & Frances Beattie, Stephen & Sarah Etty, Dena Grue, Gordon & Janet Hatch and Joseph Soanes, Shirley McFall, Nadine Patenaude, Orville Rupertus

Transfers In (3)

Carl Hoybak, Stephen & Jane Kristenson

Membership Withdrawn, Transferred or Other (13)

Jessica Clement, Gayle Gallagher, Abbygail Machinski, Chas Matthews, Lawanda Matthews, Piper Matthews, Thaiden Matthews, Brad Ofrim, Brian Ofrim, Ava Petryshyn, Sarah Petryshyn, Logan Riexinger, Darlene Welda

Marriages (3)

Amy-Ann Kotz & Jordan Sand (Ferry Point Church), Michele Beaulieu & Garrett Zimmer (Outdoor Farm Wedding), Aileen Villapando & Kerry Erga

Funerals (18)

* non-member

Bernhard von Tettenborn*, Dennis Foss*, Helge Sjogren*, Ruth Jensen, Gordon Fredrickson*, Beth Cowan, Antje Krueger* (graveside service), Olav Welde*, Milton Mosand* (at Bawlf Lutheran Church), David Taylor, Marie Tveit (graveside service), Iva Gunderson (Burgar Memorial Chapel), Elaine Olson, Dianne Amundson, Klara Moll (Valleyview Cemetery), Carol Pederson, Lloyd Grove, Harvey Forre* (graveside service)



Council Report 2020 - 2021

Council Members

President	Charlene Brown
Vice President	David Dahle
Secretary	Gail Stolee
Treasurer	Chris Hohm
Member at large	Donny Loewen (Learning)
Member at large	Carolyn Andersen (Witnessing)
Member at large	David Larson (Support)
Member at large	Lael Olson (Worship)
Member at large	VACANT (Service)

From St. Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead, His eye to watch, His might to stay, His ear to hearken to my need: the wisdom of my God to teach, His hand to guide, His shield to ward; the Word of God to give me speech, His heavenly host to be my guard.

*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me,
Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort me and restore me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me, Christ in the hearts of all that love me,
Christ in the mouth of friend and stranger.*

I bind unto myself the Name, the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three, of Whom all nature hath creation; Eternal Father, Spirit, Word: praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen.

We began this year with our first ever Zoom AGM, teaching our members how we might connect online and continue to do the business of the congregation. We conclude in exactly the same way, only with so much more! While we have only had the opportunity for in-person worship for the short period of September 13 – November 8, thanks to the tireless work of so many people we have been able to stay connected. Here are some of the many ways in which we have done that:

- Weekly online Sunday worship services broadcast on Eastlink and YouTube
- Weekly *Connecting in the Word* for both adults and children
- A fall and winter Zoom sessions of ALPHA
- Zoom Bible Studies (one on Philippian's and one on Mark)
- Men's Saturday morning bible study
- Wednesday coffee time via Zoom
- Midweek Lenten meditations via Zoom followed each week by a study on Prayer
- Special Hymn Sing Services online
- Online Confirmation classes
- All our regular committee and council meetings online
- Connecting one on one, or via phone or Zoom

Council recognizes the multitude of people that it has taken to make all of this work, from our Pastors and staff, the worship team contributors, the tech volunteers, the service volunteers for in person worship, the bible study leaders, the ALPHA leaders, the children's ministry leaders, the committee volunteers, the office volunteers and so many more. We thank you for your dedication and service to others as we continue to share Jesus Christ with all people.

The work of council has centred mostly on the ongoing needed decisions for our COVID plans. Council has also started work surrounding policy revision, as it specifically relates to staff descriptions and our organizational chart, as well as building rentals and fees. Other work includes the involvement in meetings and discussions surrounding area collaboration in ministry. This year Council functioned as the budget committee, rather than asking for an adhoc group to work on this task. As we present the budget, we will also present processes we are putting in place for future planning and consideration.

There have been many challenges within all of this, not the least of which has been the technical difficulties of delivering our services online. And yet, we **are** prevailing, we **are** connecting; we **are** serving each other and the greater community. We **are** a resilient people and we **are** bound to *the power of God to hold and lead*.

In praise of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Brown
President, Messiah Lutheran Church Council



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Learning Committee

Members: Pastor Bev Swanson (Chair) Dave Stolee (Secretary) Donny Loewen (Council Rep), Karen Olsen, Cathie Bartlett, Karen Hanson, Maureen Engen.

There were several new members that joined the committee this past year and together we tried to bring something in a form of outreach to our church community and beyond. With the Covid pandemic still being with us this past year, we resorted to Zoom sessions which worked remarkably well.

Sunday School - began at the end of September under the leadership of Michelle Kennedy Hawkins and continued until in-person church services were curtailed.

Confirmation – This was a joint effort between Bethel, Scandia/ Armena and Messiah churches, with each respective pastor alternating in leadership.

Friendship Club – Considerable effort was put into reviving this group under the very capable leadership of Cheryl Nester. A few of the issues the friendship Club struggled with was coordinating with management of the various Resident Group Homes. Their leadership was short staffed resulting in residents not even given the option of attending Friendship. We were also competing with SingAble.

Lectio – began in the fall and continued until in-person worship was discontinued. A group of 10 to 12 individuals participated, and it was led by Jane Arial.

Alpha – The first session began in fall on-line via Zoom and attendance was wonderful. Several of our church members took on the role of hosts and co-hosts. It was a great learning experience and prompted the committee to conduct a second Alpha on Zoom. From these experiences and outreach that Alpha helps facilitate, a meaningful bond has been created particularly with the second Alpha session. Lives have been changed, leading to a commitment to Christ.

Another highlight was the various Bible Studies in January and February, led by Pastor Bev and David Dahle. All sessions were well attended and folks are requesting the church continue with these sessions.

Respectfully submitted,
Donny Loewen
Council Liaison of the Learning Committee



Service Committee

Members of the 2020-21 Service Committee: Sharon Gilbertson, Ben and Bev Thomas, Bonnie Smith and Ralph Van Assen, Unangoni Opelo, Don Rebus Chair and Pastor Calvin is our pastoral representative

Sub-Groups of the Service Committee:

Meals on Wheels - The Camrose and District Support Society continues its oversight and support of "Meals on Wheels." The purpose of "Meals on Wheels" is to provide meals for people so that they can remain in their current accommodation and receive one nutritious meal per day. There are currently eight churches and four community organizations who supply drivers for the delivery of meals. Before the pandemic, meals were provided on a daily basis (five days per week), but that changed to delivery on only two days, with multiple meals (some frozen) provided each of those days. The "Brookside" kitchen prepares the meals. Messiah provides three couples as delivery teams, and seven individual drivers four times per year for one week each time. An additional service provided by the drivers is simply to give the recipients someone with whom they can exchange a "hello!" greeting. This service is provided in Jesus' Name. *Thank you Ray Blacklock for being coordinator/driver.*

Martha's Table - Again due to Covid-19 this Neighbor Aid program was put on hold. *Thank you to Elaine Taylor and Lavona Broen for coordinating this program.*

Neighbor Aid - There are 21 churches affiliated with Neighbour Aid, only a few are directly involved (e.g. Messiah, Bethel and Resurrection). Joanne Tweed, Program Director, works with 2-3 other paid staff. Neighbor Aid interacts with Open Door and Canadian Mental Health Association. Temporary shelter for those over 25 is always in demand, especially men. Family Resource Centre offers parenting programs. Messiah is active in many Neighbor Aid programs. *Thank you to Odell Olson for being Messiah's liaison member for Neighbor Aid.*

CLWR - The emphasis on sending quilts and kits has been discontinued due to high shipping cost. CLWR's main work now is to keep the local church informed of the needs around the world and to encourage financial support. One special appeal is the yearly "Gifts from the Heart". *Thank you Marilyn Hoveland for coordinating CLWR efforts.*

Ministry with Seniors - During this year of Covid-19 uncertainty, the Ministry with Seniors Committee has been unable to hold Spring Tea gatherings but continue to stay in touch for birthdays. We are seeking more members for this committee. *Thank you Ruth Ofrim for coordinating this ministry.*

Lunch Fest in January, the month of **Education Classes** and **"EATING TOGETHER"** were cancelled due to Covid-19 this year. Hopefully next year we will continue with these popular events.

Volunteer Appreciation Video - Volunteers make our church go round....During five Covid Sunday services in June and July the Service Committee members delivered a specific directed appreciation video message to the following groups of volunteers:

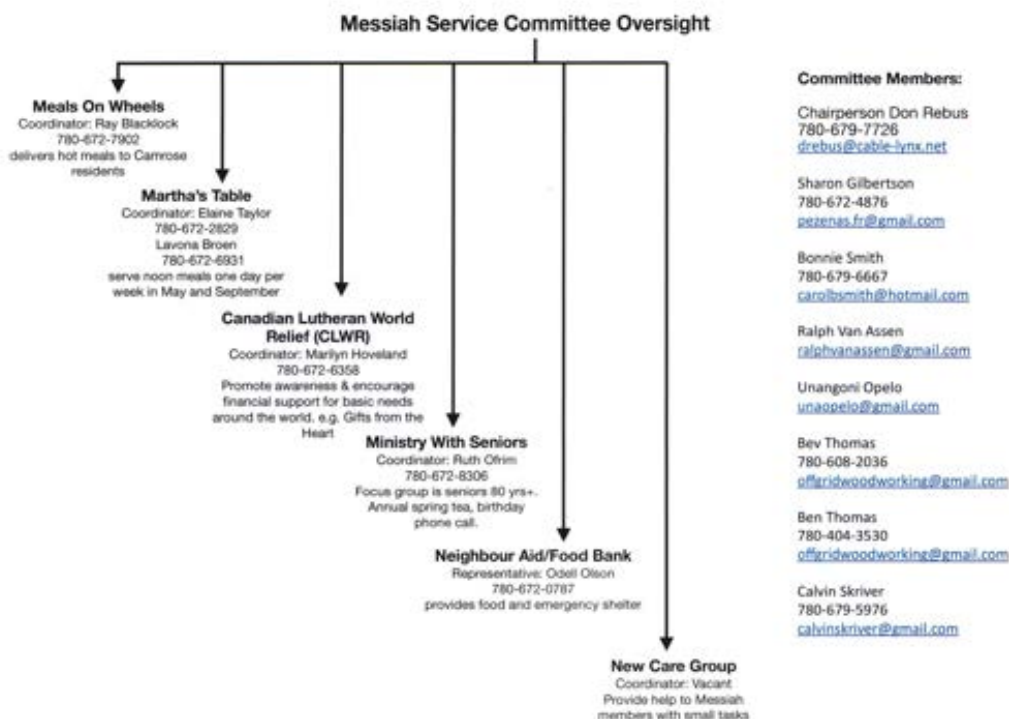
All those who make worship services go well
All those who keep the building safe and standing
All those who teach and serve
All who keep us informed
All those who feed us
All those who help out in the office



In acknowledgement of Covid-19 Essential Workers - Posters expressing gratitude to the workers were delivered to St. Mary's Hospital and to Bethany Care Homes for posting, notes of thanks were left on medical employee's vehicles, and messages of gratitude are included weekly on Messiah's Sunday morning telecasts.

Care Group - This new program involves a group of people at Messiah who are available at no cost to help with or do tasks for you from changing light bulbs, helping with spring clean up outside, to giving rides as needed etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Rebus
Service Committee Chair



Revised May 14 2021

Support Committee

Ron Foshaug, Chair; Lois Larson, Secretary; David Larson, Council rep
Members: Milt Gilbertson, Carl Hoybak, Don Myrehaug, Gordon Myrehaug, Don Saltvold, Dale Swanson

Repairs and capital expenditures have been done as needed to keep MLC and its projects functioning throughout the year.

Projects this year have included:

Mic plugins for the basement installed
Dishwasher in Fellowship Hall repaired with motherboard replacement
Office computer upgrade to Windows 10
Continuing donations for the roof fund
Boiler pump replaced
Hot water tank replaced
Check lists for audio visual workers
Historical research on the Moland cemetery
North entry roofing repair sent for quotes
Sanctuary lights and sockets checked and replaced as needed
Receipt of donated snow blower and deposing of old snow blower
Served LunchFest on March 8
Roof repair
Skylights raised and fixed
Sound board quotes obtained
Elevator inspection
Insurance renewal
Firmware upgraded
West wall sidewalk caulked
Revisions to fees
Lawn mowing, snow shoveling and lock up volunteers
Counting schedule prepared
Serial numbers on equipment gathered
Rental agreement from Support approved by Council
Participated in ad hoc committee for job descriptions and renumeration
Song database copied to a new database
Changed power settings so system shuts down before a power outage
Refinishing the sanctuary pews



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, Lori Mokry and Shirley McFall, for going above and beyond; MLW for continuing to serve our congregation in so many ways; Dena Grue for editing the Messenger; Signe Harder for maintaining the bulleting board, Mary Broen for posting offerings, the custodians, Carolyn and Lloyd Olson 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 thanks to those who diligently open and lock up our building. Thank you!



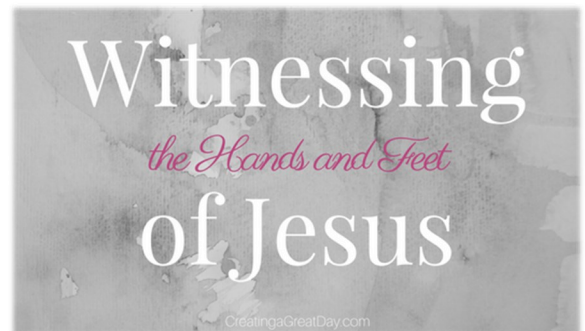
Respectfully submitted,
Lois Larson, Secretary

Witnessing Committee

Members: Cecelia Watts (Chair), Shirley Loewen (Interim Chair), Leann Reinhart (Secretary), Carolyn Andersen (Council Rep), Letha Saltvold, Ken Skriver, Erhard Pinno, Stacey Haugen and Pastor Bev Swanson.

We thank all of our dedicated members who meet regularly each month, either in person, or by Zoom. At this time, we acknowledge and "Thank" our church technical and office staff for their time and talents to provide the Zoom link to all of our meetings, and Wednesday morning virtual coffee time. We also acknowledge two groups we work in partnership with, the World Missions Group (Erhard Pinno reports to us), and the Camrose Refugee Group (Stacey Haugen reports to us). They keep us informed of our new neighbors in Camrose and Lutheran Missionaries in El Salvador, Burundi, Columbia, Tanzania and Papua New Guinea.

Hospitality is a major part of witnessing. However, due to the current pandemic, not very much getting together has taken place. But when activities can resume, the following will joyfully start again: coffee fellowship following church service, Lunchfest (soup & sandwiches), and potlucks. All of the committees take turns hosting these activities.



We welcomed new members in February at our Membership Sunday and continue with friendship follow-up.

Other responsibilities of the Witnessing Committee in the past have been:

- Manning the Welcome Centre each Sunday morning.
- Delivering Sunday bulletins Friday mornings to Memory Lane, Deer Meadows, Rosealta, and Seasons congregation members and visiting for a short time.
- Wednesday morning coffee on the lawn – July and August
- Annual Camrose Parade – serving coffee and cookies (baked by our congregation members).
- Encouraging the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox ministry.

Some new ideas pending are:

- Pen Pal Project – introducing friends or members of the congregation with another member to be a pal and converse with.
- An outside picnic (hopefully later this summer) bringing our own food and following any AHS restrictions/rules.
- Portable campfire on the lawn again, with AHS rules.

This past year has challenged our committee with witnessing amongst our church family. Our committee members phoned (approximately two times) and spoke with or left messages with congregation members. Our purpose was to just chat and make sure they were coping, and if there were any concerns that needed to be passed on to our pastors. We encourage all of Messiah to stay connected with one another to share compassion, listening and God's Love for each other. May God continue to lead and guide us sharing Jesus Christ with all people.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Loewen, Interim Chair

Witnessing Committee - World Mission Group

Sharing Jesus Christ, *Cross Culturally*, with all People Annual Report to: **Witnessing Committee and Congregational Meeting, May, 2021**

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. Each of our meetings was through ZOOM which was particularly advantageous in that it permitted Connie Landstrom of Gibsons, BC. to participate.

The Biblical basis for our opening 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 specifically directed its energies to the support of these people and related activities:

1. Messiah's most specific connection with a missionary is to **Rev. Brian Rude** who is serving in his 33rd year in El Salvador among marginalized people. Rev. Rude is a full-time missionary of the Alberta Synod. All support for Rev. Rude is through designated givings from Alberta Synod members, from people in other Synods, and from people in the USA. For the period 1/5/2020 through 30/4/2021, individuals in Messiah contributed \$4,720. That amount was enhanced through a bequest of \$2,000, and \$500 from the MLW for a total of \$7,220. Special thanks to Messiah contributors to "In Mission with El Salvador," and through it to the ministry of Rev. Rude. The Synod and Rev. Rude have sent letters of appreciation to Messiah for its support. In a letter dated May 2, 2021, Rev. Rude indicated his intention to retire as of August 31, 2021.

2. A characteristic of **World Mission Month** over the years has been the providing for the congregation during the adult class preceding the worship service a series of speakers representing various aspects of outreach in the Name of Jesus, usually beyond Canada's borders. Pastor Skriver suggested using the *Messenger* distribution list to send out, not only once per month (the normal time for distributing the *Messenger*) but once each week corresponding to the normal times when speakers would be presenting on Sunday mornings. Therefore, this distribution took place on the first Monday of January, and the subsequent four Fridays. People not on the e-mail distribution list received their copies either through the mail or by personal delivery.

Other features of World Mission Month, 2021, were (1) the use of the Children's times during the worship service to emphasize the theme for the day, (2) video greetings from the authors of the *Messenger* articles, (3) appropriate music, and (4) congregational prayers related to the featured ministry.

The WM Group acknowledges with great appreciation the cooperation and support of the Pastors, the office staff, the musicians, and the technical team in the production area for their combined efforts toward making the month a success.



BASIC FACTS REGARDING WORLD MISSION MONTH 2021

DATE	PRESENTER	EMPHASIS
Jan. 5	Rev. Brian Rude	Pastoral Ministry in El Salvador
Jan. 10	Connie Landstrom	Bible Teaching Ministry in Tanzania
Jan. 17	George Watts	Medical Ministry in Burundi
Jan. 24	Ryan and Shiv Cole	Mission Aviation Fellowship, in Papua New Guinea
Jan. 31	Tricia Hoepfner	Teaching Ministry in the Lutheran Church in Colombia

3. The Group, the congregation through the *Messenger*, and some individuals, have been prayerfully supporting the George Watts family in Burundi in their medical and administrative capacities.

4. Ryan and Siobhain Cole serve in Papua New Guinea under "Mission Aviation Fellowship," he as a pilot, she in a "Ground Staff" role.

5. The Synod of Alberta is in a "Companion" role with the Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO). At Messiah's Annual Meeting, June, 2020 it was agreed to make the interest available from a Mission Endowment Fund for the support of needy children wanting to attend the Lutheran Schools of IELCO. And further, a Fund has been established at Messiah - a fund to which Messiah members may contribute, to support needy children wanting to attend these schools. The amount of \$1,800 has been contributed in 2020-21 for this purpose. "Thank you!" to each donor.

6. A regular item on our agendas is giving prayerful consideration to one of Messiah's mission priorities, viz. welcoming and helping refugees to settle in Canada.

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

We appreciate the support received from the Witnessing Committee as it oversees our activities. We are thankful that we have a yearly allocation of funds to support these activities.

The Chair acknowledges with appreciation the active participation in the World Mission Group of Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson, Nora Gilbertson, Connie Landstrom, Erhard Pinno, Cece Watts and Pastors Calvin and Bev. With regret, however, we acknowledge the death of Doug Hawkins. His witness and constructive suggestions were always appreciated. Our sympathies are extended to Annette and to Doug's son, Jonathan, and his family.

This Group, which is neither appointed nor elected, hereby extends a welcome to others who support its purposes, and would like to share in its activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Blacklock
Chairperson

To God be the Glory!

Witnessing Committee - Refugee Support Group

The Refugee Support Group consists of people interested in the support and encouragement of refugees sponsored by Messiah. It is one of the ministries of the Witnessing Committee, and is accountable through them.

We continue to wait for two families that we committed to sponsor two Annual General Meetings ago. We have finances already in place and help promised from Century Meadows Baptist and the families of the refugees who are already here in Camrose.

Covid continues to be instrumental in delaying an already long process. We recently received some news that our families have been scheduled for physical exams, including covid tests, that will clear them for travel to Canada. Again, this sounds imminent, but could very likely be some time yet before we can welcome these people to our community.

While this is frustrating for us, I imagine that it is excruciatingly painful for the families who are awaiting their loved ones here and for those who are enduring hardships while they await coming here.

We have had a long history of welcoming refugees into this community. Let's hope we can welcome some more this year!

If you wish to be updated by email as to the news and needs of the Refugees we have and will support, please pass along your contact information to Pastor Calvin. (calvinskriver@gmail.com – or office phone: 780-672-3444 or cell phone: 780-679-5976)

Thanks to God for the generous support offered in so many ways for the sponsorship and support of refugees as they begin their new lives in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Calvin Skriver



Witnessing Committee - Camrose Refugee Centre

The Refugee Centre experienced a year of challenges related to the pandemic.

Disruption of work was a major issue for several families that we have been supporting. Some financial assistance has been given to families as a result. The resilience and willingness to seek new opportunities among the families has been amazing to witness.

The conversation group that was started last year was suspended and has not been meeting since the first lock down. We were contacted by Action for Healthy Communities which was exploring the initiation of a conversation group of their own. Their experience has been similar to ours in terms of recognizing the need but have difficulty with the logistics of scheduling and overcoming "shyness" of potential participants. We plan to communicate with Action for Healthy Communities again when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Una Opelo continues to collect clothing for Botswana. This project has been significantly impacted by the pandemic but please keep in mind that Una is still accepting clothing donations.

We have been collecting furniture for the two families that Messiah has agreed to sponsor. The project expanded as we were able to help three families with Habitat homes. We had major donations from folks who were moving out of their homes or doing major renovations and consequently made substantial contributions to one Habitat home, furnished the basement of another and have provided several beds to families who needed to upgrade what they had. St. Francis Xavier's refugee program had received a donation of several beds and also some bedding from IKEA. They graciously shared the donation with us and we were able to help some of the Iraqi families that St. Francis originally sponsored with beds and bedding from our collection. We currently have two rented storage units filled with furniture and household items. We also have some donors holding furniture and household items pending the arrival of Messiah's next sponsorship families. We believe we can fully furnish apartments for both families. We will continue to honor requests from families in the community that wish to access items that we have collected.

Because of COVID restrictions we did not host a Christmas party this year. Instead we used the money the Refugee Centre normally would have spent on food for the party to purchase gift certificates at local grocery stores through Centra Cam's fundraiser. We purchased gifts for the children rather than using any of the toys collected by the Kinettes for their Silent Santa program as we knew that demand would be high for that program this year. For some of the families most impacted by reduced working hours, we applied for food hampers in addition to the support we provided on our own.

Two of the Group of Five applications that we made for sponsorships were put on hold as a result of the pandemic. One had progressed enough that the application is in process.

In addition to the activities described above, support continues for families in day to day life. Assistance with government forms and applications is ongoing.

The Camrose Refugee Centre Board wishes to thank the many members of Messiah who volunteer their time supporting newcomer families. We wish also to express our deep appreciation to members of various churches and individual community members for their monetary and in-kind support this past year. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Century Meadows Baptist Church which has pledged annual support from their budget as well as the proceeds annually from their Three Sisters Hockey Tournament. We are truly thankful for the ecumenical support to the Centre.

Respectfully submitted,
Yvonne Myrehaug
Volunteer Coordinator



Worship Committee

The 2020-21 Worship Committee members were Darlene Dahle, Chair, Dena Grue, Secretary, Rosanna Hohm, Lue Lindseth, Cheryl Nester, and Lori Skriver. Our liaison with Council was Lael Olson. Pastors Calvin Skriver and Bev Swanson attended our meetings to offer advice.

As you can imagine, this has been a busy and stressful year for the Worship Committee. We met 18 times and in addition, small groups met during the summer to edit our document entitled *Plans for Resuming Sunday School and In-Person Worship* which can be found on our website under *COVID-19 Protocols*. Letters and articles to inform members about our plans were also written and either sent out to our members or submitted for publication in the *Messenger*.

We resumed in-person worship for nine Sundays in the Fall (September 13- November 8) and planned to resume again on May 16, 2021, but due to new restrictions we were unable to. For re-opening volunteers were recruited to greet, check attendance, and usher worshippers.



Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and the Government of Alberta kept us well informed about the latest COVID – 19 information. Our Bishop sent us letters and the government frequently updated their *Guidance for Places of Worship* document. On March 10 Darlene listened in on a Telephone Town Hall Event with Premier Kenney and Dr. Hinshaw and on March 11 she participated in a Synod Event called *Wellness Leadership During the Global Pandemic*. This was all in an attempt to be well informed.

We are very grateful to the Worship Team, under the capable leadership of Tova Olson, for leading our worship for thirteen months! In addition to Tova the Team included Lloyd and Carolyn Olson, Lael Olson, Kiva Olson, Keysha Swanson and Caleb Hawkins. In December the Support Committee constructed three-sided plexiglass barriers because we understood that would help prevent the spread of droplets. However, when we planned to return to in-person worship in May, that protection was deemed insufficient to protect the worshippers from aerosol transmission of the virus and its variants so we needed to make alternative plans.

Preparing the budget is always a huge task for every committee and this year we were required to give a rationale for each area of expense. We could not have done that without Sheila Becker's assistance so thank you Sheila!

Last fall Sheila, our Bookkeeper, noticed that we were receiving donations from a few folks who were not associated with our congregation. They were watching our services on YouTube or Eastlink Cable TV so in December Jim Brager and Darlene designed two note cards that could be used to send a thank you to these people. So far, Berniece Sogge has written a message of thanks to 23 households. Thanks Jim! Thanks Berniece!

In addition to viewing our services online there are a few individuals who watch the DVDs Lowell prepares of each service. Two DVDs were delivered on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday and one of our members picks up a DVD at the church every week. Thanks Lowell, for preparing these DVDs. If you know of someone who would like to have a copy of our services, phone the office. The only requirement is that the person has a DVD player and knows how to use it.

We are very thankful for the audio/visual technicians who attend to the screens, cameras, and sound equipment. It has been a trying time because a piece of our equipment has not been working properly so during March and April the services were recorded on Saturday evenings and uploaded to YouTube and Eastlink Cable TV on Sunday morning by Lowell Dahlman and Dale Swanson. So, thanks to the following AV Technicians who gave up their Saturday evenings this Spring to monitor the equipment. In addition to Lowell and Dale they included Charlene and Neil Brown, Nils, Willis, and Rhys Didriksen, Caleb Hawkins, Chris, Rosanna and Kassia Hohm, Chris Shuman, and Dean Steinwandt. Thanks Rosanna, for scheduling these people.

A minimum of three technicians are needed every Sunday. This is in addition to Lowell, and often Dale. The live streaming and broadcasting of our services are such an important part of our ministry. If monitoring the screens, cameras or sound equipment is a way you could serve, please contact one of our pastors.

We want to acknowledge Dale Swanson and his knowledge and perseverance with our equipment and transmission problems. During the pandemic the upload speed with Telus was not reliable, so the church has switched to Syban Systems Ltd. which is a local company that also offers wireless high-speed internet. Hopefully by the time you read this report, our TriCaster will have been fixed. To our worshippers, **thank you for persevering with us through our technical and transmission difficulties.**

In April the Worship Committee met to discuss our vision for worship. We know that our mission is *Sharing Jesus Christ With All People* and our core values are *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.* We will revisit this concept another time.

We did review and revise the Lector Guidelines.

In February, when we sensed a need for people to connect with one another, Cheryl, Lue and Darlene recruited volunteers to prepare a devotion on a text from the March Daily Lectionary. Thanks to all the contributors, to Dena who prepared the devotional booklet and to Lori Mokry who sent out the appropriate devotions every Friday.



Last June, when we proposed the September 13th return to in-person worship, we were aware of the long summer ahead of us so we recommended and followed through on a few outdoor activities that our members could participate in. Rosanna led a group of walkers, and our pastors led a Sunday evening devotional and visiting time around a fire pit. People were physically distanced from one another, at least as best as Darlene and Pastor Bev, the monitors, could achieve!

Throughout this year we have been guided by our pastors, Pastor Bev and Pastor Calvin. We thank them for their leadership! May our Lord continue to shepherd us all!

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Dahle
Chairperson

AUXILIARY

Messiah Lutheran Women Annual Report: January 1 - December 31, 2020

Our Mission statement - Sharing Jesus Christ with all people through Bible Study and Service.

The year 2020 has certainly been a challenge to us. We have had so many changes. The last month we were able to meet was March 2020(some of us). We were surprised to get the message from Canadian Lutheran World Relief about the Care Program being cancelled. Shipping costs were over \$15,000.00 and ships were not always available. Money could be sent to organizations in the countries which were supported by CLWR.

Our quilting will still be a blessing. We were able to send some of our supplies which were left over to Lutheran Association Ministers and Pilots (LAMP). 20 Baby Bundles and 20 Quilts. The Open Door received 12 Hygiene kits and a few we care bags. Victim Services with the RCMP Leduc received 6 small quilts, 6 bears and a large quilt.

Then we were shut down by Covid-19 - no gatherings. This also meant we could not meet indoors for Bible Study.

For our future, we will be able to carry on but in a different setting.

1. Perhaps we will only have circle meetings and Bible Studies and perhaps all of us get together once a year (Christmas)

2. Funeral lunches will need to be changed. One idea is to have a coordinator who calls on volunteers from our ladies. Remember all ladies at Messiah belong to MLW automatically. Menus could be changed. Perhaps sandwiches and squares which could be purchased.

3. Offerings at this time are curtailed as we have no expenses. Instead of MLW being a middle man in giving, we can give to the organizations we support separately. This is twofold:

- 1. we receive our own receipt and
- 2. the organizations will know who their supporters are.

Thank you for your continued support and please think about our future and add any ideas you may have.

Oh -- does anyone wish to be President or Secretary?

Financial statement follows.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Broen
MLW President



MLW	
Bank Balance December 31, 2019	11302.54
<u>Expenses</u>	
Study books	774.04
Funeral lunches	677.89
Quilting	1206.25
Kitchen supplies	92.23
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	2750.41
<u>Gifts</u>	
Messiah Roof Fund	5500.00
Hastings Lake Bible Camp	1000.00
C.L.B.I. Bursary	500.00
Samaritan fund (Messiah)	500.00
C.L.W.R.	500.00
Merry Christmas fund	250.00
<u>TOTAL GIFTS</u>	8250.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES & GIFTS</u>	<u>11000.41</u>
<u>BALANCE</u>	<u>302.13</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Circle Offerings	2448.00
Funeral Lunches	1750.00
Other and study books	2750.25
Co-op Dividend	32.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>6980.25</u>
<u>NEW BALANCE</u>	<u>7282.38</u>
Bank Balance December 31, 2020	7282.38

Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp 2020 Annual Report to Congregations



Greetings from Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp! 2020 was our 82 year of ministry, and a year like no other. Not surprisingly, it was a very challenging year. However, it was also very rewarding.

We had fundraisers in Camrose and Sherwood Park in February, just as Covid was starting to be a concern. In early May, on the Sunday that we normally would have our Spring Fling & AGM to kick off the camping season, we announced that we would not have a summer program, nor would we host any rentals during 2020. This was a tough, but necessary decision, and as you can

imagine a huge disappointment to all our camp family - our campers, renters, staff, and board.

The good news is that in early summer, we received a few very generous donations towards Trinity Lodge, and with the camp empty, we were able to begin construction in mid-August. Thanks to wonderful weather and great planning by our project managers Cal Lyseng and Ron Grue, we completed the project ahead of schedule and under budget. In round numbers, this was a \$400K project, and at year end we are only left with a debt of \$50K, including \$25K for an elevator which was not in the original budget.

Covid-19 brought many new challenges, and with those new challenges, new opportunities. Our first Hastings Lights event was a great success as more than 1200 people came to our Camp and we raised over \$20K - one of our best fundraisers ever! Our thanks to our Camp Director Andrew Carlson and his wife Dieta, and our Capital committee who showed their incredible creativity and careful planning to pull off this wonderful Covid-safe event.

New for 2021, we will be working to remove the limitation that we now have as a three-season camp, to allow us to leverage our investment in the Solomon's and Trinity lodges year round.

We are in the midst of planning our summer programming for 2021, and with that, new ways to "have Camp". 2021 will be another challenging year, and even at this point, we don't really know what it will look like.

We seek God's guidance and your continued support for 2021. You can help our ministry through your prayers, your giving, coming to our AGM in May, volunteering as a board or committee member, or coming to camp for a work day. Please reach out to me at Roger@Osness.com or 780-667-4746 with any questions or concerns you might have.

Praying we'll be able to see each other soon at our Camp!

In His Service,
Roger Osness
Board Chair, Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp
www.hastingslake.com 780-662-2557



Statistics

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020



Members Received	Baptized	Confirmed
By Child Baptism	3	
By Adult Baptism	5	5
By Affirmation of faith, transfer, or from non-Lutheran	16	14
Total New Members Received	24	
Baptized Members Confirmed		0

Members Removed	Baptized	Confirmed
By Death	14	14
By Transfer	3	1
By Request and to Responsibility List	10	7
Total Members Removed	27	22

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership Dec. 31, 2019	558	451
Membership Dec. 31, 2020	555	448
Active Members	264	
Adherent list (active but not members)	48	
Responsibility List	639	

Households 296

Services

Total number of Sunday Worship Services (a.m. & p.m.) 52
 Total number of Weekday Worship Services..... 6
 Total number of Services with Holy Communion 6
 Average Sunday worship attendance 171 before closing due to restrictions
 Average YouTube views..... 299 after closure due to restrictions



2021 Report of the Nominating Committee

Church Council	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021-2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
President			David Dahle
Vice-President			
Secretary			Gail Stolee
Treasurer		Dave Stolee	
Member at Large	Dave Larson		
Member at Large	Donny Loewen		
Member at Large	Lael Olson		
Member at Large			Carolyn Andersen
Member at Large			

Learning Committee	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021-2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
	Karen Hansen		
			Dave Rogers
	Cathie Bartlett		
	Karen Olson		
	Maureen Engen		

Service Committee	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021 -2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
	Sharon Gilbertson		
	Ben Thomas		
	Bev Thomas		
	Bonnie Smith		
	Ralph Van Assen		
			Don Rebus

Support Committee	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021-2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
	Dale Swanson		
	Ron Foshaug		
	Gord Myrehaug		
	Milt Gilbertson		
	Don Myrehaug		
	Carl Hoybak		

Witnessing Committee	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021-2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
	Stacey Haugen		
	Erhard Pinno		
	Ken Skriver		
			Leann Reinhart
			Shirley Loewen
			Sharon Ofrim

Worship Committee	Continuing to Serve until June 2022	Nominated to Serve a One-Year Term 2021-2022	Nominated to Serve a Two-Year Term 2021-2023
	Rosanna Hohm		
	Darlene Dahle		
	Cheryl Nester		
			Lue Lindseth
			Dena Grue
			Ioan Jober

Thank you to those who have agreed to serve on Council or on a Committee. Our Council and Committees serve an important role in Messiah's ministry of sharing Jesus Christ with all people.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Group:
David Dahle, Vice-President and Chair of the Nominating Group; Marie Brager

Recommendation from Church Council

That the following additions be made to our Bylaws:

2.11 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

2.11.A A Church Council member shall declare a conflict of interest and will not take part in any discussion or vote if he or she or any member of their immediate family in any way, directly or indirectly, benefits from an existing or proposed contract, transaction or arrangement with the congregation.

2.11.B The Church Council may declare that a real or perceived conflict of interest exists with a Council member and that member will not participate in any discussion or vote.

4.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4.5.A A committee member shall declare a conflict of interest and will not take part in any discussion or vote if he or she or any member of their immediate family in any way, directly or indirectly, benefits from an existing or proposed contract, transaction or arrangement with the congregation.

4.5.B A committee may declare that a real or perceived conflict of interest exists with a committee member and that member will not participate in any discussion or vote.

Rationale: The language for these two additions to our Bylaws come from the model congregational bylaws set out by the ELCIC. Our current Bylaws do not have any statements on "conflict of interest."

Treasurer's Report

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as MLC's treasurer for a majority of this most recent budget year. Both the church's finances and the issues brought to Council for debate have led to challenging discussions at Council meetings. The wisdom of our Council members, shown in the decisions made, has been good to see.

The financial challenge faced by the congregation, which it continues to face, is the lack of funds raised to support the staff, building and projects we have budgeted for.

In my Monthly Messenger articles and notes this past year, I described to you the financial situation our church has been in, not just this year, but for the last four or five years.

YEAR	DEFICIT (\$)
2017-2018	21,000
2018-2019	38,000
2019-2020	52,000
2020-2021	16,000

Clearly, we cannot continue to operate the church this way.

Our Church Council has struggled with this problem. Some of the answers seem good, but might be hard to implement or the outcome would not be certain. Other answers lead to making some difficult changes to reduce our spending.

Three main actions (or activities) are now occurring to address this issue:

A new budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 year has been drafted for approval at the next General Congregational meeting in June. This will be a "deficit budget". It means that the Council is trying to present a realistic picture of what our finances will look like if we continue doing things as we have in the past.

A small group of MLC members has been asked to review various options the Executive & the Council have come up with, see if there are other options, and make recommendations to the Council before September 13, 2021. We ask that you prayerfully support this group as they deliberate, and prayerfully consider what you think is best for the congregation.

A larger, more long-term, discernment process has been started. Pastor Bev indicates that discernment is the process of listening for the guidance of God in our midst. The details of this process will evolve over the next few months, and the process itself will occur over the next year. Please watch for more details and be ready to get actively involved.

As past treasurers have stated, I have benefited greatly from Sheila and Lori's help in the office. Their fast responses to my requests for help and information have made the work of the treasurer much easier.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hohm
Treasurer



Audit Group Report – Messiah Lutheran Church

Financial Years Ending April 30, 2020 and April 30, 2021

The Audit Committee conducted the following audit activities:

1. Reviewed salary grids
2. Examined payroll information for all employees
3. Reviewed 2019 and 2020 T4 slips
4. Confirmed net pay using bank statements on a sample basis
5. Compared sample bank statements to general ledger for payroll on a test basis
6. Reviewed bank reconciliations on a test basis
7. Reviewed bank statements
8. Reconciled a sample of invoices to cancelled cheques and 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, 2020.
15. Conducted an additional tracking of donations for one randomly selected Sunday.
16. Reviewed the financial records for the Messiah Lutheran women (MLW) for the period January 1 to December 31, 2019.



The above noted review resulted in no significant concerns for the audit committee. We wish to recognize the complexity of the accounting system and the excellent work of Sheila Becker in the management of these financial records of Messiah Lutheran Church!

Prepared for the Annual Meeting of Messiah Lutheran Church by the Audit Committee:
David Stolee, Yvonne Myrehaug, and Max Lindstrand (March 23, 2021)

Financial Statements

Messiah Lutheran Church

April 30, 2020

On the basis of information provided by the organization, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Messiah Lutheran Church as at April 30, 2020 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended.

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

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

Camrose, Canada
December 15, 2020

Grant Thornton LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Messiah Lutheran Church Statement of Operations

Year ended April 30	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Revenue			
Envelopes	\$ 392,000	\$ 345,160	\$ 352,015
Christmas	14,350	15,323	14,335
Easter	10,300	9,256	10,049
MLC General	5,100	9,153	5,581
Thanksgiving	7,700	8,605	7,663
Facility use and fees for service	7,500	7,595	8,410
Plate	4,500	3,634	4,034
Interest	-	2,681	526
Expense recoveries	400	65	40
Restricted donations	-	-	2,000
	<u>441,850</u>	<u>401,472</u>	<u>404,653</u>
Designated	<u>-</u>	<u>121,198</u>	<u>59,505</u>
	<u>441,850</u>	<u>522,670</u>	<u>464,158</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and Benefits (Schedule 1)	303,180	295,842	299,273
Support (Schedule 2)	98,095	73,847	93,789
Benevolences (Schedule 3)	38,592	38,592	38,933
Worship (Schedule 4)	6,700	4,915	6,095
Learning (Schedule 5)	5,310	2,039	2,596
Witness (Schedule 6)	200	99	20
Service (Schedule 7)	1,050	103	16
	<u>453,127</u>	<u>415,437</u>	<u>440,722</u>
Designated (Note 1)	<u>-</u>	<u>161,035</u>	<u>59,505</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures	<u>\$ (11,277)</u>	<u>\$ (53,802)</u>	<u>\$ (36,069)</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended April 30

	Unrestricted	Invested in Capital Asset	Endowments	Building Debt Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 68,395	\$ 676,744	\$ 120,867	\$ 22,041	\$ 888,047	\$ 924,116
Deficiency of revenue over expenditures	(53,802)	-	-	-	(53,802)	(36,069)
Transfer of building debt fund	22,041	-	-	(22,041)	-	-
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 36,634</u>	<u>\$ 676,744</u>	<u>\$ 120,867</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 834,245</u>	<u>\$ 888,047</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position

April 30

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 110,483	\$ 206,072
Prepaid expenses	4,356	2,426
GST receivable	<u>3,536</u>	<u>2,202</u>
	118,375	210,700
Endowment term deposits	120,567	120,567
Fellowship Center	<u>676,743</u>	<u>676,743</u>
	<u>\$ 915,685</u>	<u>\$ 1,008,010</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 19,270	\$ 21,229
Deferred contributions for designated expenditures (Note 1)	<u>62,170</u>	<u>98,734</u>
	<u>81,440</u>	<u>119,963</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	36,634	68,395
Net assets invested in Fellowship Center	676,744	676,744
Net assets restricted for endowments (Note 2)	120,867	120,867
Building Debt Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>22,041</u>
	<u>834,245</u>	<u>888,047</u>
	<u>\$ 915,685</u>	<u>\$ 1,008,010</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Notes to the Financial Statements

April 30, 2020

1. Deferred contributions for designated expenditures

	Balance beginning of year	Receipts	Expenses	Internal Transfer	Balance end of year
Mission interest	\$ 1,022	\$ 1,327	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,349
Panoptic interest	2,747	1,232	2,747	-	1,232
Building access fund	518	-	-	-	518
Capital projects	36,076	5,190	25,986	15,280	-
Coffee/Lunch fund	500	2,303	2,321	-	482
CP roof fund	200	39,333	94,650	(55,117)	-
Family camp	1,969	-	-	-	1,969
Professional development	1,000	223	1,000	-	223
Music (Organ)	1,558	-	-	-	1,558
Music co- ordinator	44	-	-	-	44
Other	2,362	8,658	8,658	-	2,362
Refugee fund	15,891	700	-	-	16,591
Samaritan fund	3,943	1,900	2,630	-	3,213
Senior pastor initiatives	1,805	-	-	-	1,805
TV ministry / sound system	3,415	885	4,077	-	223
Youth fundraising	12,196	50	1,533	-	10,713
Worship (Music)	4,492	120	-	-	4,612
Education	760	500	-	-	1,260
IMW El Salvador	4,000	4,995	6,995	-	2,000
Camrose Refugee Centre	5,236	16,218	10,438	-	11,016
LunchFest	<u>\$ 99,734</u>	<u>\$ 83,634</u>	<u>\$ 161,035</u>	<u>\$ (39,837)</u>	<u>\$ 62,170</u>

2. Net assets restricted for endowments

	2020	2019
Panoptic endowment	\$ 57,660	\$ 57,660
Mission endowment	<u>63,207</u>	<u>63,207</u>
	<u>\$ 120,867</u>	<u>\$ 120,867</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Schedules to the Financial Statements

Year ended April 30

Schedule of salaries and benefits

Schedule 1

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Salaries	\$ 303,180	\$ 166,698	\$ 171,619
Housing	-	40,800	40,800
Contract workers	-	32,004	32,264
AHC and benefits	-	24,310	23,055
Pension and ACCEPT	-	15,947	15,713
CPP and EI	-	11,540	11,531
Travel allowance	-	3,918	3,331
Supplementary staff	-	625	960
	<u>\$ 303,180</u>	<u>\$ 295,842</u>	<u>\$ 299,273</u>

Schedule of support

Schedule 2

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Insurance	\$ 19,820	\$ 20,125	\$ 18,727
Heating fuel	14,000	16,090	13,909
Electricity	10,500	11,449	11,321
Office supplies	5,000	5,326	6,012
Telephone	4,000	4,530	3,934
Professional fees	4,000	3,690	3,690
Miscellaneous	1,100	2,608	3,558
Water, sewer, local improvements	1,850	2,077	1,841
Custodial supplies	1,200	1,112	1,180
Conference/pastor study	1,600	1,101	616
Synod/national conference	2,000	952	976
Postage	1,200	895	1,227
Software agreements	700	673	692
Inspections/Maintenance	7,000	644	6,120
Counselling supervision	900	615	840
Conference dues	1,000	476	488
Offering envelopes	650	407	737
Bank charges	200	362	419
Office equipment lease	5,200	307	5,422
Website	200	195	269
Advertising	400	184	183
Audio/video equipment	875	29	702
Repairs and maintenance	12,000	-	8,425
Capital repair project	2,000	-	2,501
Office library	200	-	-
Volunteer screening	200	-	-
Staff retreats	300	-	-
	<u>\$ 98,095</u>	<u>\$ 73,847</u>	<u>\$ 93,789</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Schedules to the Financial Statements

Year ended April 30

Schedule of benevolences

Schedule 3

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Alberta Synod ELCIC	\$ 36,192	\$ 36,192	\$ 36,733
Camrose Neighbor Aid	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>2,200</u>
	<u>\$ 38,592</u>	<u>\$ 38,592</u>	<u>\$ 38,933</u>

Schedule of worship

Schedule 4

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Worship supplies	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,425	\$ 2,784
Copyright licenses	1,200	1,006	1,134
New music	400	614	380
Continuing Education/Carryover	500	500	500
Eternity for Today	350	370	287
Instrument maintenance	1,100	-	756
Choir program	150	-	254
Chancel Care	500	-	-
Organ scholarship	<u>300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 6,700</u>	<u>\$ 4,915</u>	<u>\$ 6,095</u>

Schedule of learning

Schedule 5

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Video licensing	\$ 660	\$ 513	\$ 504
Baby ministry	500	441	24
Adult education	1,000	405	350
Confirmation ministries	1,000	380	933
Sunday school	800	272	383
Family programs	200	28	-
Youth program	700	-	303
Library	200	-	99
Stewardship program	200	-	-
Teacher training	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 5,310</u>	<u>\$ 2,039</u>	<u>\$ 2,596</u>

Messiah Lutheran Church

Schedules to the Financial Statements

Year ended April 30

Schedule of witness

Schedule 6

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
World Missions Group	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ -
Ministry to new members	100	49	20
	<u>\$ 200</u>	<u>\$ 99</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>

Schedule of service

Schedule 7

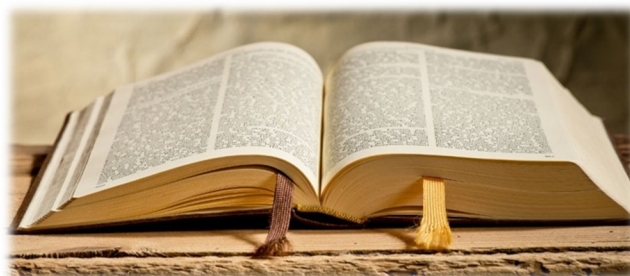
	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Office resources - brochures	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -
Other	150	-	-
Ministry with seniors	100	-	-
Volunteer appreciation	100	-	16
Sunday School	200	53	-
Other Ministries	200	50	-
	<u>\$ 1,050</u>	<u>\$ 103</u>	<u>\$ 16</u>



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH		Draft			
2021/22 BUDGET					
April 30, 2021		To Apr 30 100%			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	%	2021/22
Revenue				of Bud	
Envelopes	321,140	323,450	325,665	101%	325,000
Envelopes NSNO Declared	24,020	24,000	18,100	75%	14,700
Envelope total	345,160	347,450	343,765	99%	339,700
Plate	3,634	3,600	434	12%	-
MLC general	9,153	9,150	5,885	64%	5,300
Easter	8,271	9,000	10,039	118%	6,000
Lent	985		550		200
Thanksgiving	8,605	8,600	10,363	121%	10,000
Christmas	15,323	14,350	12,115	84%	12,000
Music performances		-			-
Facility use and fees# for service	7,595	7,500	5,469	73%	6,000
Expense recoveries	-		5,000	0%	
Interest & Other recoveries**	2,746	400	7,501	1875%	4,200
Operating Revenue	401,472	400,050	401,120	100%	383,400
*Restricted Donations	-		-		
Revenue	401,472	400,050	401,120	100%	383,400
Designated	121198		44524		
Total Revenue	522,670		445,644		
*change in accounting procedures					
**includes common share interest					
Expenses					
Neighbor Aid	2,400	2,400	2,400	100%	2,400
Synod Benevolence	36,192	36,163	36,163	100%	35,795
Salaries & benefits	295,842	304,000	290,009	95%	305,243
Program expenses					
Worship - schedule 1	5,182	6,150	3,507	68%	5,150
Learning - schedule 2	2,040	3,900	1,053	27%	3,900
Witness - schedule 3	99	200	-	0%	200
Service - schedule 4	103	800	21	3%	700
Support - schedule 5**	92,211	70,545	66,926	96%	75,750
Capital projects - schedule 5	17,795	-	-	-	-
Expenses	451,865	447,088	400,079	89%	429,138
Designated	161,035	-	44,524		-
Total expenses	612,900	447,088	444,603		429,138
Excess (deficit) income	(50,392)	(47,038)	1,041		(45,738)
Restricted funds transferred	2000		0		
Excess (def) operating income	(52,392)	(47,038)	1,041		(45,738)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH					
2021/22 BUDGET					
April 30, 2021		To Apr 30			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Schedule 1: Worship	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	% of Bud	2021/22
Program expenses					
Chancel care (old "altar guild")	0	200	0		200
Choirs new music	524	400	0	0%	400
Choirs program expenses	103	150	0		150
Choirs student bursary	0	-	0		-
Continuing education-carry over	500	500	500		500
Copyright license	1,006	1,200	1,066	89%	1,200
Eternity for Today	370	350	303	87%	350
Instrument maintenance	362	****	****		-
Organ scholarship	0	-	0		-
Worship (EasyWorship) subscription	303	350	271		350
Worship supplies	2,015	2,000	1,366	68%	2,000
Total program expenses	5,182	5,150	3,507	68%	5,150
Schedule 2: Learning					
Program expenses					
Adult education	407	500	150	30%	500
Baby Ministry	441	500	461	92%	500
Confirmation*	380	1,000	-187	-19%	1,000
Sunday School	272	500	39	8%	500
Family programs	28	200	0	0%	200
Library	0	100	0	0%	100
Stewardship programming	0	-	0		-
Training/miscellaneous	0	-	0		-
Video license	513	600	513	85%	600
Vacation Bible school supplies		-			-
Youth program expenses/misc	0	500	77	15%	500
Total program expenses	2,040	3,900	1,053	27%	3,900
*previous year adjustment missed					

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH					
2021/22 BUDGET					
April 30, 2021			To Apr 30		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Schedule 3: Witness	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	% of Bud	2020/21
Benevolence					
Missionary sponsorship	-	-	-		-
Program expenses					
New members	49	100	0	0%	100
Ministry to inactives	0		0		
Outreach	0		0		
Programs	0		0		
World Mission Group	50	100	0	0%	100
Total program expenses	20	200	0	0%	200
Total witness expenses	20	200	-	0%	200
Schedule 4: Service					
Benevolence					
NeighborAid	2,400	2,400	2,400	100%	2,400
Program expenses					
Community programs	0	0	0		0
Ministries	50	200	0		200
Issue exploration	0	0	0		0
Small group leadership	0	0	0		0
Ministry with seniors	0	100	0	0%	100
Resource care leaflets	0	100	0		0
Service Comm misc		100	21		100
Sunday adult class expenses	53	200	0		200
Volunteer appreciation	0	100	0	0%	100
Total program expenses	16	800	21	3%	700
	2,416	3,450	2,421	70%	3,100



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH					
2020/21 BUDGET					
April 30, 2021		To Apr 30			
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Schedule 5: Support	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	% of Bud	2021/22
Benevolence					
Alberta Synod**	30,611	36,163	36,163	100%	35,795
Seminary student assistance	0	-	0		-
Total benevolence	37,080	36,192	36,163	100%	35,795
Program expenses					
Advertising	184	400	546	136%	400
Audio/visual supplies	1,888	****	****		-
Audit/Accountant	3,690	4,000	4,305	108%	4,300
Bank charges/op loans	362	200	195	97%	150
Capital purchase/contingency	0	-	0		-
Conference dues	476	500	0	0%	500
Conf-other/pastors' study	1,101	1,200	70	6%	1,200
Counselling supervision	615	900	600	67%	900
Convention-synod/national	952	1,000	2,187	219%	1,000
Custodial supplies	1,112	1,200	1,657	138%	1,200
Church Council miscellaneous*	2,608	1,000	345	35%	1,000
Inspections/Maintenance	6,952	****	****		-
Insurance%	18,159	19,820	23,607	119%	25,000
Offering envelopes	407	650	296	46%	300
Office equipment lease	5,237	****	****		-
Office library	0	200	0	0%	100
Office supplies	5,326	5,000	2,948	59%	5,000
Postage & shipping	895	1,200	1,650	138%	1,400
Repairs & maintenance	4,486	****	****		-
R & M Computer/telephones	5,313	****	****		-
Software agreements	673	700	656	94%	700
Staff/lay development	0	400	0	0%	400
Support Comm misc	0	100	0		-
Taxes & improvements					
Telephone/Internet	4,530	4,000	4,922	123%	5,000
Utilities-electricity***	10,636	10,500	6,707	64%	10,500
Utilities-heating fuel***	14,337	14,000	13,993	100%	14,000
Utilities-water & sewer	2,077	2,000	1,875	94%	2,000
Volunteer screening	0	200	0	0%	200
Website	195	200	195	97%	200
Staff retreat	0	300	172	57%	300
Total program expenses	92,211	69,670	66,926	96%	75,750
Capital projects (roof)	17,795	0	0	0%	0
AV capital	0	0	0		0
Use des funds avail (deficit recover)	0	0	0	0%	0
Total capital projects	17,795	-	-	-	-
Total support expenses	110,006	134,287	103,089	77%	111,545
* CCCC membership, Camrose ministerial memberships					
**10% of 2019/2020 Envelope + Plate + MLC General					
***will still change when invoices come in					

Analysis of Messiah's Proposed Stewardship of its Proposed Resources 2021-2022

		% of Total			
Salaries and Wages for Staff		\$305,243	71%	*Building/Capital	
				AV Capital	0
				Custodial Supplies	1,200
				Inspections/maintenance	0
				Insurance	25,000
				R & M reg/comp	0
				Utilities-electricity	10,500
				Utilities-heating fuel	14,000
				Utilities-water/sewer	2,000
				Capital purchase/contingency	0
				Capital Projects	0
					52,700
Program					
Learning Committee	3,900				
Stewardship Plans	0				
Service Committee	700				
Neighbor Aid support	2,400				
Witnessing Committee	200				
Worship Committee	5,150				
Total	12,350	12,350	3%		
In Support of All Ministries - Support Committee					
Synod	35,795		8%	**Office	
Building/Capital*	52,700		12%	Advertising	400
Office**	17,550		4%	Audio/Visual supplies	0
General Ministry Support***	5,500		1%	Audit	4,300
Restore Designated gifts	0		0%	Bank charges/op loans	150
				Offering envelopes	300
				Office equipment lease	0
				Office library	100
				Office Supplies	5,000
				Postage & shipping	1,400
				Software agreements	700
				Telephone	5,000
				Website	200
					17,550
Total	\$429,138		100%		
Check from Summary Page	429,138				



***General Ministry Support	
Chur Coun Miscellaneous	1,000
Conference Dues	500
Pastor's Study Conference	1,200
Counselling Supervision	900
Conventions	1,000
Staff/lay development	400
Volunteer screening	200
Staff retreat	300
	5,500

Notes about Adjustments to Messiah Books after AGM June 2020

When the books were given to Grant Thornton to do the financial reports and the Charity Return, they said that Messiah could not show the Roof as a negative balance.

In order to achieve a zero balance, first the remainder of the Capital Projects fund was applied, leaving it at zero as well. Then the remaining balance was applied to Capital Projects under the Support Committee budget, taking it out of the Designated Funds altogether in the Messiah books.

Grant Thornton achieved the same thing through a different use of the amounts on their Summary page.

If this doesn't make sense to you and it really bothers you, you will have to talk to an accountant to figure it out, but know that it will balance out in the end.

And essentially, this is about numbers trying to make sense out of – "Messiah paid for the roof repair before really having money to pay for it and borrowed money from funds in the bank that technically weren't available at the time to be used for that project."

If Messiah had borrowed money at the bank to pay for the roof, then the books would have looked better, but Messiah didn't have to borrow money at the bank to pay for the roof and could have borrowed money to cover the purpose of the other funds if it had become necessary.

If you need a reconciliation of the different amounts shown in the pages to follow:

Amount if negative amounts allowed: Capital Projects	26,857.87
Plus Amount applied to regular budget YE2020	+17,795.41
Minus Amount still "owing" from Roof payment	<u>-25,056.77</u>
Total shown in YE2021 Capital Projects	19,596.51

Submitted by Sheila Becker, Bookkeeper



Messiah Lutheran Church					
2020-2021 Financial Report (unaudited)					
	At				At
DESIGNATED FUNDS	Apr 30	Received	Disbursed	Internal	Apr 30
	2020*			transfer	2021
Building Access Fund	518.38				518.38
Capital/Major Projects (CP Main)*	0.00	1,985.00	0.00	17,611.51	19,596.51
CP Roof*	0.00	30,060.00	0.00	-30,060.00	0.00
Capital Maintenance*	0.00	5,100.00	17,548.49	12,448.49	0.00
Coffee/Lunch Fund	482.44	50.00	38.50		493.94
Education (Learning Comm)	1,260.37	0.00	0.00		1,260.37
Interest Endowmt Fund-Missi	2,348.80	1,457.41	324.12		3,482.09
Interest Endowmt Fund-panoptic	1,232.02	1,092.57	1,232.02		1,092.57
Misc/Other	2,362.34	-1,000.00	0		1,362.34
Music Fees	44.45	0.00	19.99		24.46
Music Organ Fund	1,557.58	0.00	0.00		1,557.58
Proj Sen Pastor initiatives	1,805.00	0.00	192.57		1,612.43
Refugee Support	16,591.25	400.00	0.00		16,991.25
Proj Family Camp	1,969.44	0.00	0.00		1,969.44
Samaritan Fund	3,212.54	500.00	1,930.19		1,782.35
Staff prof dev (worship)	222.51	500.00	204.82		517.69
TV Ministry/Sound System	222.22	5,510.00	3,597.19		2,135.03
Worship/Music	4,611.63	0.00	300.00		4,311.63
Youth Fundraising	10,713.11	0.00	0.00		10,713.11
Camrose Refugee Centre	11,015.46	4,000.00	4,288.34		10,727.12
Current yr reserves Bldg Debt ret	0.00				0.00
Other:					
IMW El Salvador	2,000.00	5,220.00	7,220.00		0.00
IELCO Columbia	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00		0.00
other outside charity	0.00	120.00	120.00		0.00
CLWR	0.00	5,708.10	5,708.10		0.00
Total	62,169.54	62,503.08	44,524.33		80,148.29

Note: Designated fund reserves less endowment fund, building debt, Camrose Refugee Centre and IMW El Salvador Reserve

69,421.17

***adjusted after 2020 AGM see attached**

Endowment Fund (new mission)	63,207.48				63,207.48
Endowment Fund (panoptic)	57,659.91	50.00			57,709.91
Total Endowment Funds	120,867.39				120,917.39

Messiah Lutheran Church
2020-2021 Financial Report(unaudited)

Capital Project Funds Adjustments in steps

	Balance		transfer	balance
	shown		shown	AGM 2020
DESIGNATED FUNDS		expenses		
Capital/Major Projects (CP Main)	56160.58		-18839.22	37321.36
CP Roof	-55116.77			-55116.77
Capital Maintenance	0	18839.22	18839.22	0

Accounting requirement to not have negative balance results:

DESIGNATED FUNDS			adjust	
Capital/Major Projects (CP Main)	37321.36		-37321.36	0
CP Roof	-55116.77		37321.36	-17795.41

adjusted to general budget "capital projects"

NET OPENING BALANCE MAY 2020

DESIGNATED FUNDS			adjust	
Capital/Major Projects (CP Main)	0		0	0
CP Roof	-17795.41		17795.41	0

Note: Grant Thornton left the total negative value in "Designated" whereas Messiah books transferred to general expenses.

2021 Report if negative balances had been kept

DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Capital/Major Projects (CP Main)	37,321.36	1,985.00	0.00	-12,448.49	26,857.87
CP Roof	-55,116.77	30,060.00	0.00		-25,056.77
Capital Maintenance	0.00	5,100.00	17,548.49	12,448.49	0.00

to April 2021

Capital Maintenance accounts:	expenses	If budgetted
Audio/visual supplies	274.61	875.00
Inspections/Maintenance	6,991.63	7,000.00
Office equipment lease	5,288.18	5,200.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,503.27	8,000.00
R & M Computer/Telephones	1,268.54	4,000.00
Instrument Maintenance	222.26	1,000.00
	17,548.49	25,200.00

WORSHIP FOR A CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Faithful, hopeful, loving

OPENING OF A MEETING

Prayer

Gracious God, we ask for your presence with us as we gather to meet, whether in person or virtually. This last year has been challenging. Help us still to celebrate the ministry we have done together in the past year. Give us vision and hope as we plan for our shared future. Give us courage to follow you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Reading – 1 Corinthians 13: 4–7, 13

Hymn – *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, EvLW #733

Litany

Leader As we gather to meet,
All Be with us, God.

Leader We praise you for your faithfulness.
All Be our wisdom and counsel—guide our decision-making.

Leader We put our trust in your hopefulness.
All Give us courage to envision your future for us.

Leader We thank you for your steadfast love.
All Help us to be loving with each other, and with all we meet.

Leader As we gather to meet
All Be with us, God. May all that we do and say today be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

CLOSING OF A MEETING

Litany

Leader Faithful God, we thank you for seeing us safely through another year.

All We trust in your faithfulness to be with us this coming year.

Leader Hopeful God, you continue to show us the vision of a future of justice, peace and mercy.

All Empower us with your hope, and lead us into your ways of righteousness.

Leader Loving God, we give you thanks for your presence with us this day.
All Fill us with your love, so that we may embody your love in all we do this year.

Leader In your holy name we pray
All Amen

Hymn *Lord of All Hopefulness*, EvLW #765

Leader Go in peace. Faithful, hopeful, and loving.
All Thanks be to God.



Devotions by ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson
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