



MESSIAH
lutheran church

Sharing the love of Jesus

Annual Report 2025

Pastor LaDonna Thomas

Transform the World.

BUILD COMMUNITY.

Kindle Generosity.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2026 (for 2025 Business Meeting)

Opening Prayer – Pastor LaDonna

President’s Opening Statement—Janet Jones

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes (from January 2025) (p. 4-6)

Presentation of Annual Reports

President (p. 7).....	Janet Jones
Pastor (p. 8-9).....	Pastor LaDonna Thomas
Stewardship and Finance (p. 10).....	Bob Rothenbuehler
Property Ministry (p. 11).....	Dustin Runkle
Life Long Learning (p. 12-13).....	Heather Von Bank/Church Office
Personnel (p. 14-15).....	Scott Madigan
Worship Music and Arts (p. 16).....	Sandy Dahms & Linda Wenkel
Social Outreach (p. 17-19).....	Barb Meier & Office
Prayer Shawl Ministry (p. 20).....	Alice Keel
Visitation (p. 21).....	Ione Barron
Fellowship & Recreation (p. 22).....	Lynell Senden
Membership & Statistical Information (p. 23-24)....	Church Office

Vice President Statement—Nate Brekke

2024 Financial Reports

1. Savings (Dedicated) Account Summary (p. 25)
2. Messiah Endowment Fund (p. 26)
3. Messiah Scholarship Fund (p. 27)
4. Messiah Lutheran Church Budget 2025 (proposal, discussion, adoption) (p. 28-31)

Miscellaneous Reports

- ELCA Bishop Message (p.32)
- SE MN Bishop Message (p.33)
- The following reports are available in the office for anyone who wishes to read them.
 - Gustavus Adolphus College
 - Green Lake Lutheran Ministry
 - Crossroads Campus Ministry

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting Agenda (Cont.)

February 1, 2026 (for 2025 Business Meeting)

Old Business

New Business

- 1. Nominating Team & Counsel Proposals

NOMINATING TEAM PROPOSALS

Current Nominating Team - Karna Stock, Joanna Petersen, Linda Wenkel, Sandy Dahms,
Alissa Brekke, Greg Suskovic

Personnel Team Leader: _____,

Personnel Team: _____.

2026 Nominating Team: Current: Alissa Brekke

New: Karla Elmore, Ione Barron, Brian Stockland, Barb Sorensen

Council Proposals: VP—Joanna Petersen At Large (3 yr)—Jodi Himmer

Audit Committee Proposals: Mark Himmer and Frank Steichen

- 2. Election of Voting Members to S.E. MN Synod Assembly , Saturday, May 2 — in MANKATO. No more info available at this time.

Two persons needed (one male, one female) plus one youth (under 18) *or* young adult (18-30)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____ (youth/young adult)

- 3. Water’s Edge (formerly Green Lake) Annual Meeting Representatives— February 10, 2026, Noon meal. Business Mtg @ 1 pm a. _____ b. _____

- 4. MN River Conference Assembly — February 15, 2026 @ Messiah Lutheran in North Mankato

a. Pastor LaDonna b. Nate Brekke c. Joanna Petersen

- 5. Gustavus Adolphus College Representatives Association of Congregations Meeting

April 18, 2026 from 12-3 pm.

a. _____

b. _____

Closing Prayer – Pastor LaDonna

Adjournment

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS - 2025

Janet Jones, President
Katie Hendrickson, Secretary
Julie Olsen At Large

Nate Brekke, Vice President
Swede Mundell, At Large
Greg Suskovic, Past President

Jean Zandstra, Treasurer
Dustin Runkle, At Large

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2025 (for 2024 Business Meeting)

Call to order 11:30

Opening Prayer – Pastor LaDonna

President’s Opening Statement—Greg Suskovic

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes (from January 2024) (p. 5-7) as amended

Motion: Bill Halstead

2nd: Dave Wright

Approved

Presentation of Annual Reports

President (p. 8)..... Greg Suskovic

Pastor (p. 9)..... Pastor LaDonna Thomas

Stewardship and Finance (p. 10)..... Bob Rothenbuehler

Worship Music and Arts (p. 11)..... Sandy Dahms & Linda Wenkel

Life Long Learning (p. 12-13)..... Heather Von Bank/Church Office

Personnel (p. 14-15)..... Scott Madigan

Social Outreach (p. 16-18)..... Barb Meier & Office

Property Ministry (p. 19)..... Archie Kendall

Quilting (p. 20)..... Lynn Klaber

Prayer Shawl Ministry (p. 21)..... Alice Keel

Visitation (p. 22)..... Ione Barron

Fellowship & Recreation (p. 23)..... Lynell Senden

Amendment - Sacred Sites tour supported by money raised by Pie and Brat Stand

2025 Pie and Brat Stand: Lyndell requests volunteer supervisor for each night, volunteer workers, and apprentice coordinator who will take over in 3 years.

Membership & Statistical Information (p. 24-25).... Church Office

Miscellaneous Reports—These reports are available in the office for anyone who wishes to read them.

- SE MN Synod Office
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Green Lake Lutheran Ministry
- Crossroads Campus Ministry

Motion to accept Annual reports from Committees as amended: Linda Wenkel

2nd: Debbie Leiferman

Motion passes

Vice President Statement—Janet Jones

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting Minutes (Cont.)
February 2, 2025 (for 2024 Business Meeting)

2024 Financial Reports

1. Messiah Endowment Fund (p. 26) Congregational review and discussion of the purpose and procedures of the Endowment fund.

Discussion:

Brianna Parr Baker question: Requested funds - only 3 requests approved in 2024

Explanation of "Travel Expenses" - to service receiving a new Pastoral leader for the Messiah Congregation

Explanation of 40% reinvestment

Next steps:

A formal report of spendable earnings from endowment needs to be delivered to the council in October, 2025.

The guidelines of the endowment will be distributed to the congregation for understanding of financial requests.

The gift policy will be distributed.

Maintenance Items will go under a capital campaign.

2. Messiah Scholarship Fund (p. 27) - 3 students received Scholarship funds

3. Savings (Dedicated) Account Summary (p. 28)

Loren requests that PEP \$127.27 fund be given back to council for distribution to another designation

Motion to accept 2 reports as amended: Perry Stow

2nd: Kimberly Moore

Approved

4. Messiah Lutheran Church Budget 2025 (proposal, discussion, adoption) (p. 29-33)

Motion to approve 2025 Budget: Dave Frye

2nd: Bill Halstead

Approved

Old Business

Jerry Crest - Strategic Planning Committee: Recruited a team of 11 people to discern planning for Messiah's future, with 4 priorities

Support and enhance programming for Youth/YAs

Support and enhance community outreach

Support and enhance Messiah as a welcoming environment

Nurture the spiritual life of congregation

Directory Update - Council is setting up a digital/printed directory with submitted pictures/information

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting Minutes (Cont.)
February 2, 2025 (for 2024 Business Meeting)

New Business

1. Nominating Team & Counsel Proposals

NOMINATING TEAM PROPOSALS

Current Nominating Team - Victoria Hanson, Karna Stock, Steve Lenz, Kim Henrickson,
Joanna Petersen

Personnel Proposals: Still accepting,

Property Team Leader: still accepting,

Council Proposals: VP—Nate Brekke Secretary—Katie Hendrickson (2 yr) At Large (3 yr)—Julie Olsen

2. Election of Voting Members to S.E. MN Synod Assembly , Saturday, May 30 — in MANKATO. No more info available at this time.

Two persons needed (one male, one female) plus one youth (under 18) or young adult (18-30)

a. Joanna

b. Still accepting

c. Still accepting (youth/young adult)

3. Green Lake Annual Meeting Representatives— February 11, 2025, Noon meal.

Business Mtg @ 1 pm

a. Dave Frye

b. Nancy Frye

4. MN River Conference Assembly — February 21, 2025 @ Bethlehem Lutheran in Mankato

a. Pastor LaDonna

b. Janet Jones

c. Nate Brekke

5. Gustavus Adolphus College Representatives Association of Congregations Meeting—April 26, 2025

from 12-3 pm.

a. Sarah Suskovic

b. Greg Suskovic

Motion to accept nominated representatives: Kay Kendall

2nd: Sarah Suskovic

Approved

Closing Prayer – Pastor LaDonna

Adjournment 1:01

CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS - 2024

Greg Suskovic-President, Janet Jones-Vice President, Jean Zandstra-Treasurer, Britta Petersen-Secretary, Swede Mundell-At Large, Dustin Runkle-At Large, Heather VonBank-At Large, Kim Henrickson-Past President

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Janet Jones, Council President

Messiah Friends and Family,

What a wonderful experience to have the opportunity to serve as the president of the Messiah Lutheran Church council this past year. When I was called 2 years ago by Kim Henrickson, I will admit that I was very hesitant to serve. Three years seemed like a big commitment. But I gave the prospect my prayerful consideration and consulted with those I love, and in the end, I decided to do the job. The structure for serving in this capacity is well thought out. In 2024, I was vice-president, so I got to be on the council and see how things were run (without a lot of responsibility). When I started as president in 2025, I knew the expectations and I was ready to perform the job. Now, in 2026, I get to be a consultant, observer, and mentor as past president. I would urge anyone who is given the opportunity to be vice-president, president, and then past president when contacted by the nominations committee to genuinely consider fulfilling this term. It has certainly helped me grow in faith and fellowship at Messiah.

Messiah has been blessed with the wonderful leadership and guidance of Pastor LaDonna Thomas, giving us the stability and courage to move forward in many ministries.

Many things have been and continue to be accomplished through 2025. What a blessing to be a part of the Capital Campaign – Paving the Way – Making a Difference Together. Our church family raised over \$190,000 in one month and have seen some of the results, with more to come. The parking lot was patched and seal coated; a new HVAC system has been installed in the sanctuary; and the skylights are in process of being finished (to be installed this spring).

Messiah continues to be a serving community. The addition of the Gather opportunity shows our continued willingness to reach out to those in need. This is in addition to the many social ministry programs we can participate in through Messiah. Our congregation continues the mission of “Sharing the Love of Jesus”.

A joy that I did not realize I would be a part of, has been designating our benevolences from Messiah to organizations that serve our community. The church council designates funds quarterly and then at the end of the year, we give even more to local organizations that are serving our community.

Looking to the future, the council continues to work on updating the endowment gift policy and the constitution (watch for this as 2026 progresses). We hope to complete an audit in 2026 as well. Our congregation has indicated that education and youth should be a priority, moving forward, we are hoping to address this area with some leadership support for our youth. As always, there continue to be property needs in our future.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our church family.
Janet Jones

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Pastor LaDonna Thomas

Beloved People of Messiah,

This annual report offers us the opportunity to name our blessings; give thanks for celebrations and milestones; honor the faithful work of our ministry teams, leaders and volunteers; and, to pay close attention to what God is calling us to in the year ahead as we continue to carry out God's mission to share the love of Jesus with all people.

The theme of our 2025 Stewardship emphasis offers us a lens for reviewing and celebrating our life and ministry together. Kindle Generosity. Build Community. Transform the World. As you read the annual detailed reports of our ministry team and leaders, you will see the ways in which our shared values of generosity, community and transformation are woven into what we do and how we do it. In my report I simply want to name the ways in which I have seen these values at work in our live together how they might serve us in 2026.

Generosity has been kindled through the committed volunteers which undergird our life as a faith community. Ushers, communion assistants, readers, decorators, data entry, and money counters who support our worship life and contribute to a welcoming sense of hospitality for our worship life. Teachers, mentors, small group leaders, cooks and parent volunteers for our children's faith formation and Middle School Ministries give of their time, talents, and love of children and youth, making our Wednesday evening programming a fun and engaging experience. Our quilters kindle generosity stitch by stitch, providing warm and care. Those who work with the Mankato Lutheran churches Welcome Team generously give of their time and resources to provide transportation, orientation, and loving support for our asylum seeking family. Teams of generous people cook and serve meals for the unhoused at Connections Shelter in Mankato. Many of you have responded generously to food, clothing and household goods collections for our local social service agencies. Our Endowment committee has generously provided resources for faith formation across the generations. Many of you and even people outside of our congregation made generous, sacrificial offerings towards our "Paving the Way" capital campaign, raising over \$200,000 in less than one month! And, for the day-to-day ministry needs of staffing, keeping the lights on, plowing the snow, heating the building, and keeping the phone lines active, you have given generous offerings and gifts. Thank you for these and many other ways in which you kindle generosity!

Messiah has been building community in 2025 as we have come together for worship, study groups, faith formation, celebrations, and life transitions. I appreciate the conversational buzz as people gather for worship. It's a sign of our connection and care for one another. It puts a smile on my face when a first-time guest I just met in the narthex is sitting with a long-time member who has offered to help the newcomer find their way through the service.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025 (Cont.)
Pastor LaDonna Thomas

That's building community from the moment someone walks through our doors! When we come to the prayers of intercession and there is space for people to name those for whom they are concerned, the cacophony of voices and names reflects our sense of community with those who suffer. When someone experiences the loss of a loved one our congregation surrounds them with food and hospitality, support, and love. Our newest ministry "Gather" has been launched specifically to build community among those who are alone or isolated because of age, physical or cognitive limitations, or other life circumstances. With each passing month Gather grows and its reach extends well beyond the membership of this congregation. Four groups meet a couple of times each month to discuss a book they are reading. This is forming their faith and creating and solid connections among those who participate. Our visitation team holds in their care and visits folks who are no longer able to be physically present with us for worship. They bring the church to them in their visits, prayers and sharing communion. Our presence at the North Mankato Fun Days with our pie and brat stand builds community among those who volunteer and work together. It is also a public witness of what our congregation is like and how we work together. Thank you for these and many other ways you build community!

Messiah values Spirit led transformation. Faith formation among our children, youth and adults. is a pillar offer life together. We joyful celebrate the faith stepping stones of first communion, affirmation of baptism (confirmation), and graduations from high school and college. Adults who attend the Wednesday morning and Thursday morning Bible studies seek the transforming power of God's Word. We participate in the gospel-centered transformation of our Mankato community through our support and participation in Mankato Pride parade. Transformation is happening in the lives of young people who participate in the scout troop, chartered by our congregation. Our offerings to the Southeast Minnesota Synod and the ELCA support the life-transforming work of the Gospel in ways we could not do by ourselves: Lutheran camps, mission work around the globe, and advocacy and justice ministries at home and abroad. I give thanks for theses and many other ways the transforming power of God is at work!

Messiah values generosity, community and transformation. It's woven into the fabric of our life together. It's just who we are. The more we practice generosity, the more generosity is kindled; the more we practice being true community, the more community is built; and, the more we practice Spirit led transformation, the more we are transformed into the likeness of Christ. With these gifts, we can look to 2026 with optimism and trust that there is nothing that God calls us to that we can't accomplish when we practice our shared values of generosity, community and transformation.

In the joy of sharing the love of Jesus with all people,

Pastor LaDonna

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Stewardship & Finance

Mission: Encouraging a daily connection with Jesus and guiding the church in responding to God's love by using the God-given gifts of time, talents, and resources in ways that show the love of Jesus and bring Glory to God.

Theme: "Kindle Generosity. Build Community. Transform the World."

Pledge Campaign Speakers: Bernie Latulippe, Heather Von Bank, Bill Halstead, and Nate Brekke

2025 Budget Report:

The 2025 budget was **\$370,000**

Total Contributions for 2025 were **\$351,352** (compared to \$347,227—2024)

Total Expenditures for 2025 were **\$363,754** (compared to \$362,069—2024)

2025 Stewardship Emphasis: Generous Together

We held multiple worship services in the Narthex to promote the Synod program emphasizing Generosity.

2025 Capital Campaign:

We completed a capital campaign in record time to repair our roof and stained-glass windows, replace two hvac units, repair and reline the parking lot and replace the water fountain.

> The final total (to date) is \$215,424 with 90 family units participating.

2026 Budget presented to council is \$388,000 including \$12,000 for a part-time youth director.

Summary: In 2024, we spent \$14,842 more than we took in. In 2025, we spent \$12,402 more than we received.

We increased the budget by \$18,000 as a stretch goal to again challenge you, the community of Messiah, to continue supporting and growing the services and ministries, we provide.

In addition, as we strive to accomplish our major initiative of increasing our commitment to our existing and future youth, we want to allow them the opportunity to flourish in their relationships with our Lord.

Thank you for your continued gifts and especially the overwhelming support during the capital campaign!

Thanks be to God!

Stewardship and Finance Team

Pastor LaDonna, Jean Zandstra, Bob Rothenbuehler, Doug Stock, Greg Suskovic,
Darci Karau, Cheryl Christofferson

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Property Team

During 2025 we did all the usual projects:

- Sprayed the lawn for weeds
- Fertilized the lawn
- The gardening group maintained and watered the flowers and plants
- Sprayed for insects that hampered the outdoor services
- Did the annual mower maintenance and bought gas for mowing
- Continued with contractors hired in 2024 to plow snow for 2025/2026 Winter
- Did annual checks on the A/C and Furnaces and repaired/replaced as needed
- Annual fire alarm testing and inspection
- Fire extinguisher inspection and repair

Additional projects in 2025:

- Skylight replacement, this might carry over into 2026
- Converted 5 parking lot lights to LED. All parking lot lights are now LED.
- Lifted cement sidewalks at both entrances to eliminate trip hazards
- Sealed parking lot
- Replace HVAC units
- Replaced water fountain
- Replaced conference room AC unit (Purchased in 2024, paid for installation 2025)
- Removed two dead Maple trees

Existing bids received for projects in 2025:

- Ash tree removal. We won't remove any trees until they start to show signs of dying off. This could be a year or two out

Existing bids received for potential projects in 2026:

- Partial or entire roof replacement.
- Carpet cleaning and addressing current issues

Property Team Members: Greg Ous, Linda Wenkel, and Les Altenburg

Team Chair: Dustin Runkle

Council Representative: Dustin Runkle

Lawn Mowers: Dustin Runkle, Lynell Senden, Jim Senden & Kevin Franke



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2025

Life-Long Learning

Mission: Sharing the love of Jesus with people of God of all ages so that they are nurtured in faith, grow in knowledge and experience, and are inspired and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Supporting Scriptures: *Philippians 3:10-14, Colossians 1:9-10, Ephesians 3:14-21, Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Timothy 1:3-7, Matthew 22: 37-39, Proverbs 22:6*

Birth – 3 yrs. Ministry:

Messiah welcomes children into the Lord's family through baptism and the family is presented with a Bible for their child. In 2025, there were no baptisms.

Elementary Ministry:

- Eight First Communion students and their parents attended a retreat on March 15, 2025 to explore the meaning of the sacrament, why we share this meal, and what is meant by “elements.” Six children received their 1st Communion on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 and two others received on April 27th.



- Bibles are blessed and presented to all 3rd graders each year during worship. There is one student during the 2025-26 school year who will receive their bible in Winter 2026.
- The Sunday School children, pre-kindergarten to 5th grade, told the Christmas story on December 14th during the 10:30 am worship service.

Sunday School Ministry:

Youth religious education is a special way for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade to come together and experience God's love and hear God's Word through fun, hands-on lessons using methods that give the children opportunities to experience the Word of God through Bible stories, crafts, games and songs. Starting in the Fall of 2024, we decided on a new format for religious education for our young people and we have continued this format for all of 2025.

During January to May 2025 Messiah Kids, children between preschool and 3rd grade and their families, were invited to attend the 10:30 am worship with their children. After the children's message during worship, children were dismissed to the gathering place. We did a group activity first and the children went to their classrooms. The children engaged in a lesson with their teacher and peers, and were invited back into the church to receive a blessing during communion. After church, families picked up their kiddos from the classrooms.

During those same months, we invited 4th and 5th graders to attend Club Messiah on Wednesday evenings. Families were invited to come for dinner at 5:30pm. Family worship began at 6:00pm and then the youth were dismissed to classrooms between 6:30-7:00 for youth education. Parents were encouraged to stay with their children during dinner and worship.

In the fall between September and December 2025, both the Messiah kids and Club Messiah groups attend worship and lessons on Wednesday evenings. This has resulted in a large group of children and families attending worship regularly on Wednesday evenings. Parents have stepped up to volunteer as teachers. We have three groups of youth: preschool to 1st grade group, 2nd to 4th grade and the 5th grade.

30 children continued with Club Messiah and Messiah Kids in the Spring of 2025, and 23 children were enrolled in Club Messiah and Messiah Kids in September of 2025.

Vacation Bible School Outreach

Unfortunately, Messiah did not send any youth to attend VBS with the Christ the King congregation.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report 2025

Life-Long Learning (Cont.)

Middle School Ministries (MSM):

Our Wednesday night schedule includes a meal at 5:30 PM, worship at 6 PM and large and small group learning until 7:30 PM. Twenty-three 6th, 7th and 8th grade youth are attending MSM for the Fall 2025-Spring 2026 school year. (8 in 6th grade, 5 in 7th grade and 8 in 8th grade)

- On Saturday, April 12th the 8th Grade retreat was at Messiah, and on Wednesday, April 30th, we hosted the 8th Grade Affirmation Dinner, Rehearsal, and Group Photo.
- Thirteen 8th graders affirmed their faith during an Affirmation service on May 4, 2025. Each year the students choose a what special offering will be presented and this year \$278 was collected for the Connections Shelter.



High School

A high school game night was hosted at Messiah on Sunday, April 27th.



Adult Faith Formation

Faith formation is a life-long experience of living into our baptism into Christ. Adults at Messiah have continued to grow and mature in their faith through their participation in the following opportunities in 2025:

- Adult Bible Study options include Wednesday mornings with the group watching a sermon from Lutheran Church of Hope followed by discussion; Thursday morning men's breakfast and lectionary discussion at Happy Chef.
- Small group book discussion groups brought together over 40-50 people to discuss the provocative writing of John Pavlovitz in his book *A Bigger Table* (winter/spring, 2025) and the insightful invitations of Barbara Brown Taylor her book, *An Altar in the World - A Geography of Faith* (fall, 2025). We are grateful for those who led the small groups and for Janet Jones who provided the organizational leadership for them.
- Wonder-Full Wednesdays in the summer of 2025 gathered people for hikes on local trails, with opportunities for contemplative connections with God and creation and fellowship with others. We thank two of our newer members, Austin and Mickayla Yardy for helping to lead these excursions.
- 2025 brought a curious and eager desire among another dozen people to learn and practice centering prayer, a contemplative form of prayer that invites one to dwell in the loving gaze of God. Pastor LaDonna led three introductory sessions in the late fall of 2025.
- Experiences that bring multiple generations together harnesses the power of the wisdom of the elder and the wonder of the child. Lent 2025 brought together 3 generations of learners in a "dinner church" format in our gathering place. We shared a soup supper, brief worship with communion, and learning experiences around the promises we make and affirm in our baptism. Thanks to Sandy Dahms setting our gathering in the shape of the cross and Jan Waller for coordinating our soup suppers.



Respectfully submitted: Pastor LaDonna Thomas, Heather Von Bank, and Amy Malvin

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Personnel

Mission Statement

To provide policies, procedures and assistance that enables the staff to work together as a team to facilitate the ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Messiah Personnel Report - January—December 2025

The Personnel committee for 2025 was Scott Madigan as team chairperson, Bill Halstead, Britta Peterson team secretary, Briana Parr-Baker, and Kimberly Moore. Janet Jones/Nathen Brekke were the board representatives.

The personnel team helped serve food for Lenten Wednesday 3-26-25.

Personnel meeting at Messiah at 9:00 AM 2-1-25

Present at the meeting were Scott Madigan, Bill Halstead, and Janet Jones.

We got together again and discussed how Amy was doing and when would be a good time to make adjustments after her job changes. We went over Amy's original salary request and our wage proposal. We all agreed things were going well and we should follow up with the current proposal. We also plan to follow up again with LaDonna and Bob Rothenbuehler in November to get employee reviews from LaDonna and financial update from Bob. I let both LaDonna and Bob know our plan and that was fine with them.

Personnel meeting at Messiah at about 10:45 AM 11-16-25

Present at the meeting were Scott Madigan, Bill Halstead, and LaDonna.

The meeting was set up to go over LaDonna's reviews of our staff listed below that she had met with in October.

Amy Malvin – Office Manager
Barb Sorensen – Organist
Cindy Rupp – Music Director for 10:30 worship and choir
Christ Terpstra – Custodian
Wendy Paulson – Custodian

LaDonna had the comments below about our staff and our personnel team agree with.

General Comments: Messiah is blessed to have each member of our staff. All of our staff work with a high level of commitment to Messiah and to the role they fill on our staff. Each works to the best of their abilities and gifts and are willing to stretch those gifts when asked. There is a high degree of cooperation and team spirit among our staff. I have no concerns about any of our staff. I encourage our personnel committee and congregation council to make every effort to retain and encourage our staff with regular signs of appreciation and by maintaining their compensation at a competitive level. At minimum, a cost-of-living wage increase should be recommended for 2026 budget year, with the exception of Amy, for whom we have already committed in 2026 to "year 2" of a wage increase commensurate with her new position in 2025.

We did have an issue that came up in that meeting where we needed help from 2-17-25 to 3-12-25 because a staff member would be gone. The issue was solved that week when another staff member agreed to take over for that person during that time. I think this shows how the review that LaDonna gave is spot on.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Personnel (Cont.)

Summary 12-24-25

This year was still a transition year, but I think it went pretty well. Both Amy and LaDonna, who had the most changes, seem to have things under control. I also think the way the people of Messiah responded to the repairs of the church so fast was great and unexpected.

This is Scott and Britta's last year on the personnel team so if you would like to join the team let us know.

Personnel Team Members

Interim Pastor Tim McDermott

Council Member: Janet Jones

Personnel Chair*: Scott Madigan

Members: Bill Halstead, Britta Petersen**, Kimberly Moore

* Chair position will need to be filled in 2026.

** This position needs to be filled in 2026.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Worship, Music, Arts Team

Ministry Statement: “Creating meaningful worship experiences that inspire worshippers to hear God’s Word and to share the love of Jesus.”

Together with the pastor, the Worship Team continues to plan and carry out the regularly scheduled weekly worships throughout the church year.

Two styles (traditional and contemporary) of worship continued to be regularly offered with Messiah United Worship services combining the styles when there was a 5th Sunday in a month or for a special occasion. Communion continues to be served by intinction using wafers and juice/wine with a gluten free option as well.

Plans for limiting outdoor worship services during the summer to a total of three (one/month) based on needs for help moving instruments in and out of the church changed to having only two outdoor worship services due to weather this year. A change in positioning the musicians and altar facing north allowed for seating on the driveway’s paved surface making it easier for mobility needs.

We are fortunate to have musicians faithfully share their gifts and talents consistently so we can offer both traditional and contemporary styles of worship each week. Barb Sorensen, along with various other musicians (vocalists and instrumentalists), continued to lead the traditional worship service. Cindy Rupp (Noah Wilson in her absence), along with other musicians (vocal and instrumental), provided the wonderful music for the contemporary service.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all members who faithfully serve as ushers, readers and communion assistants. Your participation is very important to providing meaningful worship experiences.

The physical environment within and outside the church building is enhanced by many gifted volunteers who share their “eyes and abilities” decorating and adding to being a welcoming church presence in our community.

During the time Pastor Tim McDermott served us as Intentional Interim Pastor, members were encouraged to wear name tags for worship. This has continued with Pastor LaDonna and “permanent” name tags are now available for any member wishing to have one. Use of name tags is especially important for developing connections between members and also with visitors.

We gather together for regular worship praising God, connecting with each other in fellowship, learning about the Word and its relevance for today, and sharing the love of Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Wenkel and Sandy Dahms



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Social Outreach

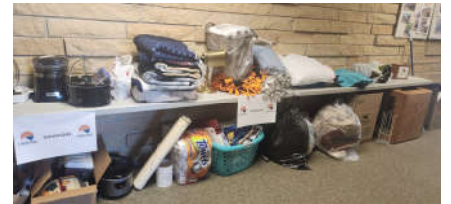
Messiah's Social Ministry provides Messiah's members the opportunity to make a positive difference. Bringing compassion and helpfulness to individuals in our immediate and worldwide community.

"Share the LOVE of Jesus..." *God's work! Our hands!*

1. **Social Outreach Team:** Barb Meier, Cheryl Christofferson, Jan Waller, Lynn Klaber, Sandy Dahms, Jody Latulippe, Jean Zandstra

"Winter Donations to Connections Shelter" We started the new year collecting warm winterwear for the guests of our homeless shelter in January. 57 pairs of warm thermal/wool socks, 8 pairs of insulated gloves and 16 winter hats were collected. Every guest received one pair of warm socks including the children. We plan to run this collection each year if needed.

"A Fresh Start" (Provides new home essentials for those emerging from homelessness.) During January and February Messiah collected 7 car/truck loads of numerous household items including kitchen dishes and utensils, bedding, blankets, glasses, towels, pots & pans and a coffee maker. Furniture included highchair, kitchen table & chairs, stressless chair & hassock, twin beds, end tables, lamps and two vacuum cleaners. There was also \$60 in cash donations. On Nov. 21st, A Fresh Start had a Holiday Pop-Up Sale at Messiah.



"ECHO Food Shelf": During the month of March Messiah participated in the food and monetary donation drive for ECHO food shelf with The Minnesota Food Share program. We collected goods, food, and monetary donations the month of March. 144# of food and \$230 was donated. We voted to include Crossroads Campus Ministry in distribution of the food and monetary donations. ECHO received 75% and Crossroads Campus Ministry 25%. In October, \$5,000 was donated to ECHO through the "Hoo's Hungry" Matching Funds Fundraiser.

"Cultivate Kindness": During the Lenten season, the Social Outreach Ministry Team provided weekly prompts for everyone to practice and acknowledge the kindness we give to one another. The pillars in the narthex were full of deeds of kindness we shared and received on butterfly papers. Many good comments, plan to do this again in the future.

"GATHER": Our new weekly Wednesday social program started June 4th. "GATHER" is for adults of all ages seeking social interaction with others. Optional activities such as cards, games and crafts are offered. A free will offering lunch is provided. Rides are available for anyone requesting assistance. "GATHER" has been very successful. Participants even voted we gather on Christmas Eve. Attendance varies weekly, from 15 to 20 plus. Free will donations for 2025 totaled \$1,456. Several of our participants are community members. We applied and received a Holy Spirit \$1,000 grant from the ELCA.



The grant is currently being used to promote "GATHER" in the community. Watch for Ads in the VINE newsletter and Banners will be installed this Spring. *Mathew 18:20, For where two or three gather in my name, there I am in the midst of them.*



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Social Outreach (Con't)

"Share the Warmth": In August Messiah collected over 200 items of warm clothing. This included coats, jackets, vests, snow pants, sweaters, sweatpants and shirts, caps, mittens, hats, gloves, boots, scarves for men, woman, and children. Recipients of the clothing were the asylum-seeking family, Salvation Army "Bundle Me Warm" program and Connections Shelter.



2. **Service Projects:** Social Outreach Team, Messiah members

"God's Work, Our Hands" Service Project: The congregation celebrated "God's Work. Our Hands" by gathering supplemental school supplies in August & September for teachers in North Mankato (Bridges, Hoover, Monroe, Dakota Meadows, and Futures). Teachers often run out of these necessities during the school year and end up purchasing more out of their own personal funds. Social Outreach Ministry contributed \$300.00 towards purchasing supplies. On Sept. 28th those items were blessed by the congregation and the following Wednesday, our "GATHER" group sorted the items, (Sticky back Velcro tape, Laminating film, Sharpies, White board markers, Ticonderoga pencils, Pocket folders, Kids Stickers), packaged and delivered 2+ very full grocery bags to each school.



Picnic with First Responders: On Saturday, August 23rd Messiah Partnered with the North Mankato Police Department. Messiah provided Hotdogs, Buns, Chips, & Pop, Grillers & Servers. This event was especially planned with children in mind to develop trust in Law Enforcement.

Christmas Gift Bags: Middle School Ministries & "GATHER" group worked together to deliver 20 Christmas Gift Bags to bring Christmas Cheer. Sales of Luminaries this year provided the funding.

3. **"Food For Friends":** These programs are funded by congregational donations & fundraisers.

Crossroads Campus Lunch for a Buck Ministry:

Messiah provided a meal in Jan. & Feb. in 2025. Messiah members make the meal, deliver, and serve. We will not be providing meals in 2026, until we have a coordinator for this program, contact the office if interested.

Connections Shelter Ministry: Lead: Barb Meier

Messiah provided meals 13 times for 50 people in 2025, 8 of those times Messiah members prepared, and served the meals. 5 of those times were prepared and served by (2) "Serving Groups", (Messiah members that have gathered friends/family together and provided food for the shelter individually or with Messiah's help). We also have members that are signing up on the "Connections" website and providing meals & serving. We leave all leftover food and "Connections", repackages and it is used to serve drop-ins at the shelter office on Front Street.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Social Outreach (Con't)

4. Messiah Quilting Ministry: Lead: Lynn Klaber
 Messiah Quilting Ministry was quite productive this year; 57 quilts were created. Quilts were displayed in the sanctuary for two Sundays in May before being dispersed to charities in the Mankato area. Recipients of our quilts; Partners in Housing (includes Theresa House and the Welcome Inn on Broad St.), Fresh Start, House of Hope (Men and Women), Connections Homeless Shelter, Welcome Manor (Garden City), American Red Cross/Families of Service Men and Women. Thank you for the donated sheets and fabrics that were utilized in stitching the quilts; they are appreciated.

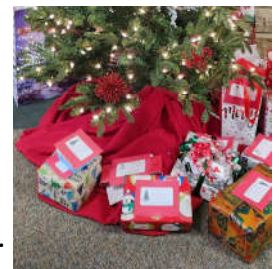


5. Mankato Pride Parade: Messiah joined with several other churches in Mankato to walk in the Mankato Pride Parade on Saturday, September 6th. Together, offering a unified Christian witness of love, acceptance, and inclusion of our love for our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

6. WELCOME! (Welcoming Everyone with Love and Compassion; Our Mission – Embracing discipleship.)
 Messiah’s partnership with Grace, Bethlehem, Christ the King, and Calvary, successfully continues for the helping of our asylum-seeking immigrants from Nicaragua. We are at the end of the 3rd year point of their adventures in Mankato. The process of immigration is taking longer than originally thought for the family. The WELCOME team appreciates that all churches have committed to support the family. Messiah members donated \$3,223 toward the group’s financial responsibly for the family in 2025, Funds raised will support the family’s quest for asylum which is a complicated and expensive process. If you would like to make a pledge, please contact the church office. The family is very thankful for your support. A Fundraiser was held on April 4th at Christ the King; Messiah donated 5 themed Baskets for the Silent Auction.

7. Messiah Sharing Tree:

A Christmas Sharing Project where Christmas gifts were given to 15 Households, with 66 gifts given to Messiah Families and Pathstone Residents. Your generosity was appreciated by those less fortunate.



8. Red Cross Blood Drives: Messiah Office arranges date; Red Cross provides volunteers and snacks. Drives at Messiah on Jan. 28th, 27 units collected, Aug. 26th, 23 units collected.

BUDGETED OUTREACH MINISTRIES TOTAL: \$10,700

Lutheran Campus Cupboard: \$2,400	A Fresh Start: \$400	ECHO: \$1175
Lutheran Campus Ministry: \$400	Salvation Army: \$400	Red Cross: \$400
FOCP (Backpack Food Prog.): \$1,175	Theresa House: \$400	CADA: \$1,175
Green Lake Bible Camp: \$800	My Place: \$1,175	MACV: \$400
Connections: \$400		

CONGREGATIONAL GIFTS

My Place: \$429 WELCOME Family: \$965 World Hunger: \$520 Luminaries: \$455 (Christmas Gift Bags +)

YEARLY REQUEST MINISTRY: Sertoma, (Dec.) (\$570.00) “Poinsettia’s, 38 Plants Purchased

TOTAL SOCIAL OUTREACH MINISTRY: \$23,908

Respectfully Submitted, Barb Meier, Outreach Leaders, with Amy (Office) and Jean (Treasurer records)

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry members made 19 prayer shawls in 2025. Nineteen shawls were given to family and friends of the congregation throughout the year.

The members of this ministry meet three times a year (April, August, and December). The December meeting was cancelled this year due to the weather.

The members knit or crochet the shawls at home. At the meetings, the shawls are blessed by the team and prepared to be given to family and friends of Messiah. The pastor blesses the shawls at both of the church services throughout the year.

This is an on-going ministry which individuals may join at any time during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Keel



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Visitation Team

Mission Statement – Reaching out with our hands and hearts, we serve our elderly, ill and isolated members. We recognize every person is a valued child of God.

Your Messiah Visitation Team is made up of the following people: Linda Wenkel, Janet and Steve Jones, Lynn Klaber and myself. We try to brighten the days of people who are limited to spending most of their time indoors. This is done with a cheerful visit. We offer communion to those we visit. We currently have 9 residences where we visit 13 people.

Our team meets periodically as needed. We met in November with Pastor LaDonna to update our current list of people we visit. A project was mentioned by Pastor LaDonna that could be done collaboratively with the Visitation Team and the Middle School Ministry students. Small useful gifts would be bought and placed in gift bags. The Middle School Ministry students would deliver the gifts in December and sing some carols. As this turned out, the "Gather" folks placed the gifts in bags and they were ready to distribute. This was a successful and great project!

If you know of anyone who currently would like a visitor, please let Amy know in the church office and she will pass that message on to me and a visit will be arranged.

Ione Barron,

Visitation Team Leader

Current Members: Ione Barron, Marlene Buker, Linda Wenkel, Janet Jones, Steve Jones, and Lynn Klaber

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Fellowship and Recreation

Mission Statement: “Reaching out, turning our hearts to God, giving of ourselves freely and cheerfully” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Vision: To be Spirited (Acts 2), Growing (Matthew 23), and Christ Centered (John 13)

Purpose: To provide financial and spiritual support to the various activities and events that exhibit our community of fun, fellowship and recreation.

Easter Sunday Breakfast: Several volunteers served the breakfast meal to approximately 80 individuals. Food was prepared by JD Truffles.

Adopt - a - Highway: In May and October, groups walked our section of Highway 14 between Lor Ray Drive and Rockford Road. We had many participants for BOTH of the months! After the work was completed, meals were ordered at Big Dog for all walkers interested.

Fun Days Pie & Brat Stand: This year the North Mankato Fun Days was a success! It was held from Wednesday, July 9th through Sunday, July 13th. Our annual stand ended with a net profit of \$4,739.04. After paying the City of North Mankato 10%, our Pie & Brat Stand profit was \$4,265.14. This was down from last year. Below is the daily breakdown of total sales. NOTE: This year we upgraded and accepted E-Sales. This brought us \$498.93 in sales. Jean Zandstra spent SEVERAL hours getting this up and running! THANK YOU Jean!!

WEDNESDAY:	\$1,113.75
THURSDAY:	\$1,178.14
FRIDAY:	\$2,487.00
SATURDAY:	\$3629.00
SUNDAY:	\$826.12
<u>AFTER SALES</u>	<u>\$741.00</u>
	\$10,473.94



This year, funds were designated for the Capital Campaign. They will be used at the discretion of the church council.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Messiah’s Fun Days Pie & Brat Stand - JULY 8 - 12, 2026.

As we look toward 2026, if you have additional ideas you would like our Team to consider, please contact Lynell Senden.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Lynell Senden

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Membership Statistical Information
Year End

1. Baptized Membership at end of 2024	641
2. Baptized Members Received during 2025	
a . By Baptism (Children <15 years)	0
b. By Baptism (Adults >16 Years)	0
c. By Affirmation of Faith.....	0
d. By Transfer	1
e. From other Sources	7
f. Total Members Received this Year	8
3. Baptized Members Removed During 2025	
a. By Death.....	3
b. By Transfer	3
c. For other Reasons	19
d. Total Membership Removed this Year.....	25
4. Baptized Membership at End of 2024	624

Respectfully Submitted,
 Amy Malvin, Office Manager



New Member Sunday, September 28, 2025

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 Annual Report from the Church Records

Baptisms

1. None

Marriages

1. None

Confirmed—May 4, 2025

1. Cooper Barrett
2. Alexandra Barten
3. Brooks Baukol
4. Steven Bobholz
5. Liliana Chatleain
6. Stanley Erickson
7. Mia Graff
8. Breah Hendrickson
9. Jeran Karau (May 11, 2025)
10. Collin Landgraff
11. Nicholas Malvin
12. Lauren Pipes
13. Taylor Tokheim

Deaths

Date of Birth—Death

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Howard Hanson | 6/8/1944—1/10/2025 |
| 2. Mary Hlavac | 12/10/1957—11/9/2025 |
| 3. Barb Anderson | 9/23/1940—11/29/2025 |

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Dedicated Savings Account

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Administration	\$ 251,467.89
Undesignated Funds	\$ 1,187.90
Designated	\$ 9,402.66
Building Fund	\$ 14,044.60
Benevolence-Undesignated	\$ 2,969.50
Memorials	\$ 12,678.95
Communications	\$ 352.00
Life Long Learning	\$ 9,329.16
Fellowship & Rec	\$ 14,776.02
Social Ministry	\$ 15,224.58
Worship & Music	\$ 0.89
Youth Ministry	\$ 9,475.23
Pep Club	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$ 340,909.38

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Endowment Team

Principle Balance of Endowment Fund:	\$396,265
Increase from Investments (9/30/25):	\$3,297
New donations to Principal:	\$0
New Principal Amount (9/30/24)	\$399,793

This Annual Report dates from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. The Endowment Committee feels this date range better serves the church for the Annual Meeting deadline, since some year-end investment statements are not available until after our annual meeting.

Investment Results

Gains as of 9-30-2025:	\$16,485
20% To Principle:	\$3,297
40% Reinvested:	\$6,594
40% Available	\$14,483 - (\$6,594 + \$7,889 carryover)

2025 Distributions:

Sunday school materials:	\$854
Middle school expenses:	\$499
Worship materials:	\$99
Adult faith formation:	\$400

Who can donate funds: Any individual, family, firm, or corporation, can donate money, securities, or any other form of property. Messiah Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will accept funds at any time. The Messiah Treasurer will transfer gifts and contributions in a timely manner for investment in the Endowment Fund. Pamphlets are available at the Messiah office with more information on contributing to the Endowment Fund.

Use of Endowment funds: Annually, the Endowment Fund Committee may recommend to the church council an amount eligible for disbursement out of the Endowment Fund. Disbursed funds should be designated for uses, projects, and/or programs that enhance any member's faith journey. Disbursements are not to be allocated to the church's operating budget, maintenance, or capital expenses.

Requesting funds: A form is available at Messiah to request funds. Completed forms should be given to the Endowment Committee and then presented to council for final approval.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Dahl, Dayle Moore, Frank Steichen, Harriet Plotz, Jim Jilek

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Report 2025
Scholarship Fund

Established 2021

Balance 9/30/2023:	\$52,139
Scholarships Paid Out:	\$1,500
	\$49,594
Midland Annuity	\$26,781 (Gain \$906)
Misc. Investments	\$26,987 (Gain \$683)
Deposits	
Spring Offering	\$1,094
Fall Offering	\$658
Other Deposits	<u>\$7,889</u>
TOTAL	\$9,641
New Balance (9/30/2025)	\$60,280

Eligible students:

- Must be a confirmed member of Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Have completed 25 hours or more of volunteer work in the church or community.
- Be attending an accredited college, university, or technical college.

Contact the church office for applications and full policy details.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dahl, Dayle Moore, Frank Steichen, Harriet Plotz, Jim Jilek

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - Annual Report 2025

Treasurer's Report & 2026 Budget Proposal

Account Name	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
INCOME			
Contributions-Commitment	343809	358000	
Contributions-Additional Offerings	<u>6911</u>	<u>11000</u>	
Total	350720	369000	
Seasonal Offerings			
Lent Offering	<u>632</u>	<u>1000</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	351352	370000	388000
EXPENSES			
BENEVOLENCE			
Green Lake Lutheran Ministry	400	400	
Lutheran Campus Ministry	2400	2400	
Minnesota River Conference	0	180	
Southeastern MN Synod-Support	25300	25300	
Local Benevolence	<u>8720</u>	<u>8720</u>	
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	36820	37000	38800
SENIOR PASTOR			
Salary	54144	54144	59075
Auto Allowance/Travel	1228	3500	2000
Pension	8529	8528	9551
Health Insurance	13874	16692	6517
Housing Allowance	25083	25083	25000
Social Security Allowance	6055	6061	6432
Professional Expenses	506	500	500
Continuing Education	1182	1000	1000
Disability	256	511	287
Health Savings Account	0	0	0
Pastor Moving Expenses	0	0	0
Paid Leave Act	0	0	625
Group Life	<u>171</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>191</u>
TOTAL SENIOR PASTOR	111027	116360	111178
INTERIM PASTOR			
TOTAL INTERIM PASTOR	0	0	

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH - Annual Report 2025

Treasurer's Report & 2026 Budget Proposal

Account Name	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
STAFF			
Administrative Assistant Wage	0	0	
Office Staff - Continuing Ed	0	0	
Youth Director	0	0	12000
Office Manager - Wages	49504	49400	52000
Office Manager - Flex Account	0	0	0
Office Manager - Health Savings Acct	0	0	0
Office Manager - Benefits	13279	11809	13402
Maintenance/Custodian	13250	13200	13464
Organist/Song Leaders	9860	11130	11650
Musicians	30806	24000	27000
Worship Band Director	15000	15000	15000
Screens	0	0	0
Office Manager - SS & Medicare Payroll Tax	4801	3500	3640
Earned Sick and Safe Time	0	0	2000
Paid Leave Act			440
TOTAL STAFF	136500	128039	150596
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS			
Bloodmobile Lunches	0	0	
Conventions/Retreats	0	165	0
Families In Need	90	0	100
Flowers Sympathy	0	0	
Pulpit Supply	1095	1200	1200
Marriage Preparation	0	0	
Synod Assy & Related Expense	<u>900</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>900</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	2085	1965	2200
CHURCH OFFICE			
Copier	4687	4500	4500
Website Hosting	477	500	600
Technology - Misc.	2024	4000	200
Envelopes	350	100	150
Labels, Paper Supplies	582	600	600
Late Fee/Interest	4	0	0
Misc. - Other	0	0	0
Office Supplies	909	700	1000
Petty Cash	27	0	0
Postage Expense	1964	2000	2000
Safety Deposit Box	0	0	0
Shephard Staff Software Support	600	600	625
Telephone	<u>8281</u>	<u>8100</u>	<u>8300</u>
TOTAL CHURCH OFFICE	19905	21100	17975

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH—Annual Report 2025

Treasurer’s Report & 2026 Budget Proposal

Account Name	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM			
Prayer Pillows	0	50	0
Birth To Three Years	0	0	0
Sunday School Curriculum	0	1300	0
Sunday School Supplies	26	100	100
3rd Grade Bibles	0	100	50
1st Communion	279	300	300
VBS/Day Camp (Scholarship)	0	150	150
Club 1706	89	100	100
Adult Education	0	0	0
Senior Blankets	136	300	300
Sr. Events/Scholarships	0	0	0
MSM Curriculum	120	500	500
MSM Winter Warm UP	0	0	0
MSM 6th Grade Retreat	0	200	0
MSM 7th Grade Retreat	0	200	0
MSM 8th Grade Retreat	0	100	100
MSM Large Group Session	0	0	0
MSM Affirmation Service	35	0	0
MSM Mission Trip Scholars	0	0	0
MSM Events/Scholarships	0	0	0
MSM Wednesday Night Dinners	0	0	0
MSM Affirmation Dinner/Family	468	350	400
Kid's Faith Connection	0	0	0
MSM Faith Mentors	0	0	0
Bible Camp Scholarships	0	150	0
Confirmation Expenses	500	200	400
Mission Trip Scholarships	0	0	0
Senior Breakfast	<u>64</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
TOTAL EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM	1717	4225	2525
CARING MINISTRY/EVANGELISM	0	0	0
New Ministry Initiatives	0	0	0
Christ in Our Home	484	425	405
Evangelism-Misc	14	2000	2000
New Member Dinners	0	60	0
New Member - Misc	0	0	0
Web Site - Domain	348	350	600
Worship Ads	<u>587</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTAL CARING MINISTRY/EVANGELISM	1433	2835	3505

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH—Annual Report 2025

Treasurer's Report & 2026 Budget Proposal

Account Name	<u>2025 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM			
Property & Building Repairs	2877	3500	3500
Equip Maint - Fire & Alarm	830	1000	1000
Equip Maint - Furnace & Air Conditioning	2235	3600	2000
Equip Maint - Mower/Snow	618	350	400
Equip Maint - Water Softener - Salt	0	0	500
Equip Maint - Vacuum	70	0	75
Land Maint - Landscaping	<u>0</u>	0	0
Land Maint - Lawn Service	2256	1200	1800
Land Maint - Snow Removal	3705	6658	7906
Supplies - Cleaning	559	500	500
Supplies - Paper	84	300	300
Taxes/Insurance - Property Insurance	8654	7500	8500
Taxes/Insurance - Property Tax	50	50	0
Taxes/Insurance - Workmen's Comp	1352	1700	1700
Utilities - Electric	7180	7500	7650
Utilities - Gas	4336	3700	4500
Utilities - Waste Removal	7743	7500	7650
Utilities - Water & Sewer	<u>3096</u>	<u>3599</u>	<u>3670</u>
TOTAL PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM	45646	48657	51651
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE			
Bookkeeping	2400	2400	2400
Checks/Fees	591	460	600
Offering Envelopes	0	100	0
Payroll Service	1826	2000	2000
Commitment Drive Expenses	0	0	0
Simply Giving Expenses	<u>1163</u>	<u>1200</u>	<u>1200</u>
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	5980	6160	6200
WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY			
Altar Guild Supplies	428	800	600
Baptism Supplies	0	25	25
CCLI Copyright Permit	643	650	675
Worship Equip Maintenance	400	700	600
Augsburg ELW Licens	589	589	610
Visual Arts	39	175	150
Easy Worship	310	320	310
Worship Resources	<u>311</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>
TOTAL WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY	2720	3659	3370
TRANSFERS			
TOTAL EXPENSE	363831	370000	388000
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	-12478	0	0

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,




A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7


Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA 2025 Ministry Report




We gathered at **Council as Leaders** to think collaboratively and further equip ourselves for ministry as lay and rostered leaders.



Nuer Community Lutheran Church, a new worshipping community, was established! Rev. Yang Tut was ordained.



We had four new entrants to the **Candidacy** process! 13 were in process as '25 concluded. 19 attended the annual **Candidacy Retreat** at Good Earth Village.



“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.”
—1 John 3:1 (emphasis added)

Through Christ, we have been made children of God! What good news! It is out of this identity, the truest proclamation of who we are, that we live as followers of Jesus in this world.

As members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, we strive to *walk together proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ*. We live in this community of faith, across sixteen counties with 100,000 baptized members as the children of God. Because this is who we are, we celebrate all the ways God is at work in us and through us – not only in our own communities but throughout the synod and church - for the sake of the world.

Join me in celebrating all the ways God has been at work in our midst over the past year, and let's look ahead, together, with joyful anticipation for what God will yet do, in us and through us, for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,



Bishop Regina Hassanaly




A variety of **Power and Boundaries educational workshops** were offered to equip church council members, faith formation professionals, and rostered ministers for leadership.




Rev. Sarah Krolak was called to serve as pastor of **Connections Ministry/Shelter Church**, which is a Synod Authorized Outreach Ministry based in Mankato.



Synod members participated in the **Lutheran Church of Colombia's National Assembly** where Rev. John Rojas was elected as bishop.



We gathered under the theme “Remember what God has done. Prepare for what God will do.” at the **Synod Assembly**. Three resolutions were passed regarding *Support for the Least of These and the Ministries that Serve Them* and *Expanded Preaching and Teaching on the Stories of Women in the Bible and Use of Female Imagery of God and of God's Work in the World*. On the first ballot, Bishop Hassanaly was elected to a second six-year term.



About 140 ministry leaders attended the **Fall Theological Retreat**, which includes fellowship, education, and retreat. Rev. Leila Ortiz led the presentations and discussion on pneumatological estuaries, with the theme of *Baptism in Muddy Waters*.



17 Rostered Ministers joined our synod!

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