

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



66TH ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026
AFTER 10 AM WORSHIP

2025 Annual Report

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66th Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

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 Approval of Minutes
 January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
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 Congregation President's Report
 Ministry Reports (written)
 Council Elections
 Synod Assembly Representatives Election
 Endowment Fund Board Election
 2025 Financial Highlights
 2026 Budget Approval
 New Business
 Closing Prayer

Our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Affirmation of Welcome

Mission Statement

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Called into community, gifted to serve;

Glorifying God through love in action.

Vision Statement

We welcome all into our faithful and joyous Christian community. Guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit, we proclaim and spread God's love and peace in the world. We serve others, working toward a just society where all are valued as beloved children of God, so that each person can live a life of dignity.

Core Values

We at Messiah value:

- **Vibrant relationships with God** – evident in our worship, prayer, and daily lives
- **Serving others together** – using our gifts to meet others' needs
- **Generosity** – as faithful stewards of our God-given time, talents and resources
- **Growing in faith** – through personal and community prayer, study, and discipleship
- **Community and fellowship** – living as brothers and sisters in Christ, encouraging and holding each other accountable
- **Compassion and kindness** – loving and building up one another
- **Inclusion and affirmation** – welcoming everyone with God's love
- **Spirit-led momentum** – continuously discerning and growing as a community
- **Trust** – in God and each other, to share our joys and struggles
- **Forgiveness and reconciliation** – embracing God's forgiveness and extending it to others

Affirmation of Welcome

Messiah is a Welcoming, Inclusive and Reconciling Congregation. We believe that nothing can separate us from God's unconditional love. We believe that God is the God of all people, regardless of our various ages, race, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, income, strength of faith or socioeconomic backgrounds. Messiah is committed to the work of confronting racism and moving forward toward equity and justice in the world. If you have ever felt excluded, unwelcome or marginalized, we welcome you in Christ's love. Come and worship with us, become part of our family and join us in our mission.

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
65th Annual Congregational Meeting – January 26, 2025
Called into community, gifted to serve.
Glorifying God through love in action.

The 2024 Annual Report had been previously emailed and hard copies were available at this meeting.

Jeff Gerstenberger opened our meeting in prayer. We met in person, with options for Zoom and via phone. Jeff explained the logistics of the meeting. People with questions would be given a microphone so everyone could hear their questions. The Zoom participants could ask questions via the chat feature and they would be read to the congregation. All confirmed members were eligible to vote. Jeff projected spreadsheets that were also included in our handout.

In person voting was done by paper ballot. Zoom participants voted via chat. Phone participants voted vocally.

- **Approval of minutes** - Breanna Dauphinee made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of our February 4, 2024 Congregational Meeting as written in the Annual Report, and Sheri Treadwell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- **Pastor's Reports** – Pastor Aileen referenced her printed report and asked if anyone had any questions for her or Pastor Hans. Pastor requested that everyone read the reports from Pastor Hans, Music Ministry, President's report and all the individual ministries. There were no questions or comments.
- **Council Elections** – We have two council positions to fill: Outreach and Adult Faith Formation. Mark Sutliff agreed to continue leading Outreach. Jan Pios is leaving the Adult Faith Formation Ministry. We thanked her very much for her service. We do not have anyone to take her place at this time. Council terms were up for three council members; however, they graciously agreed to continue service: Mark Sutliff, Sheri Treadwell and Andy Mitchell. *(Voting results recorded below.)*
- **Synod Assembly Representatives Election** – We need two lay people to attend the 2025 Synod assembly which will be virtual this year. Both Breanna Dauphinee and Carol Dunn have agreed to attend and they need congregation approval. *(Voting results recorded below.)*
- **Sunday 5 pm Worship** – Pastor explained that very few people attend the Sunday evening service. She talked to the few members that attend this service and they agreed that February 23, 2025 would be the last one. In the past, this service included the Praise Band and provided a different service option. It has evolved to be similar to the Sunday morning service. Sunday morning service attendance has increased by 5% over last year and there are about 25-30 people who attend online each week.
- **Endowment Fund Update** – Jeff said with the new Endowment Fund rules approved last year, we are allowed to use 10% of the accrued earnings (\$15,382) for funding new grant opportunities. There will be more information to follow regarding how to apply for those funds.

Year End balance	\$198,357
Principal	<u>\$ 44,543</u>
Accrued earnings	\$153,823
Available to use	\$ 15,382

- **2024 Financial Highlights** – At 2024 Year End we had a surplus of \$21,018. We transferred \$5,000 to the Concord Fund, \$11,200 to the Greater Messiah Fund, and \$4,818 to the Carry Over Fund. In addition, our Unbudgeted Benevolences contributions for 2024 was \$34,554. We unexpectedly spent \$6,299 on Bee extermination. Jeff explained the money transfers so there was transparency.
- **2025 Proposed Budget:** Pledges in 2024 were \$361,780 and \$368,500 in 2025; that is a 2% increase. We used the non-pledged offering estimate of \$51,000 which is the same as last year for our budgeting purpose. The synod reimburses us for 25% of Pastors salary, the data from 2024 was higher because it included one payment rolled over from 2023. The synod assures us that 2025 will have the correct 4 payments.

In 2024 we invested in CDs and expect to realize a return of \$7,700 in 2025; we plan on moving more of our cash from Canandaigua National Bank to Vanguard to further increase our interest income in 2025.

The budget target is \$368,500 as detailed in the Annual Report.

The Staff salary increase will start on February 1, 2025 because the congregation needs to approve this as part of the budget. Please note that we added \$1,000 financial support for Breanna as she enters seminary. We also made the decision to decrease our contribution to the Southwest Mission.

Jeff reviewed and discussed the proposed budget, detailing the increases and reductions with explanations. Jeff asked if there were any more questions, not addressed at the Annual Meeting or the Finance Forum, and there were none.

Jim Hartmann made the motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget of \$386,500. Karen Treadwell-Collins seconded the motion. *(Voting results recorded below.)*

- **Messiah Policy Document:** While we waited for the vote tallies, Jeff discussed the Messiah Policy Document listed on our website and the useful information there that members should be aware of.
- **Voting:** The vote for Synod Assembly representatives was 53 yes and 0 opposed votes. The Council Member vote was 54 yes and 0 opposed, and the 2025 Budget passed with 59 yes and 0 opposed.
- **New Business** – Pastor thanked Gene Ligtenberg for his service on the Finance Team and gave him a small token of appreciation. No other new business was initiated.

Pastor Aileen closed our meeting in prayer

Submitted by Laurie Simonson

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Thank you for an amazing year of partnership in ministry. The biggest highlight of the year for me was the return of our Music Arts and Drama (MAD) Camp in August, staffed by members of our ecumenical partners. What a joy and a delight to have the building once again filled with the sounds of children making music and crafts and exercising their thespian skills! And what a wonderful way to build community among our partner churches as we worked side by side.

My Star Word for 2025 was "Welcome." And it has indeed been a year of welcoming. Again, there was MAD Camp and the welcome to families and children. We welcomed our food pantry recipients and continued to build relationships with them which continued into our Angel Tree Party as most of our angels came from our families who receive food.

A welcome that we often neglect to mention is the welcome that we give to the families of the grieving as they assemble to bid farewell to their loved ones. There is always a warm welcome and a hearty meal to sustain them following the service. So many of you take the time to help in some way, shape or form, either with worship or the fellowship. I cannot thank you enough for this meaningful work.

We hosted two workshops. Our discipleship workshop on communication was wonderful and the End of Life workshop was well received and very informational.

My work with the Upstate New York Synod has found me from one end of our Synod to the other meeting with pastors and congregations doing interviews, leading workshops on topics from communication to visioning to beginning the work of Holy Closure. It is meaningful work and I appreciate the opportunity to be among our congregations at very vulnerable moments. The Bishop and I are very intentional about my time and thus far, I have maintained a 10-12 hour work week for the Synod. I invite any and all questions regarding this partnership.

I will be traveling to Zambia from Jan 29 – Feb 5 in a relationship building excursion with the Bishop and two other pastors from the Synod. I look forward to sharing that experience with all of you.

I'm looking forward to the ways we can be welcoming in 2026. As always, thank you for your partnership in ministry and your witness to the grace of Jesus in your lives!

Pastor Aileen

Pastoral Assistant Report

Once again, as I complete my annual report and reflect on this past year as our “Pastoral Assistant,” many thoughts and feelings come to mind on the “eve” of my upcoming “retirement” at the end of January. My family and my mind tell me it’s time to “retire” as does my body, which after my accident this past June has had a decided impact on my ministry as the following statistics will declare. From the beginning of 2019, my goals have been consistent, that is, to truly assist our hard working and very dedicated Pastor and, hopefully, enable her to have well deserved time off. I believe I have been successful in doing so, although I wish I could have done so even more! Of course there have been other challenges, but there always are in pastoral ministry. A primary part of my ministry has been “pastoral visitation,” especially to those who are homebound or hospitalized or in long term care facilities. I have truly enjoyed these visits and if those I visited have enjoyed them half as much as I have, then I am very thankful to them and our Lord and Saviour!

I will leave this position with many feelings of gratitude for the honor of being asked to serve you in this way. I am especially grateful, that as I retire from this position, I will continue as a fellow member of our beloved congregation! It is my ongoing prayer that we will continue to grow in faith and in our commitment to serve God together!!

My “Stats:”

Hospice and Hospital Visits: 116+

Home Visits: 58 +

Telephone Ministry: 30++

Worship Leadership and/or Preaching: 10

Food Distribution Ministry: 13

RocUbuntu Ministries: 25++ (including Ubuntu Tutoring Ministry)

Outreach: 10+

Stephen Ministry Leadership: 12

Administration: (reports, meetings, emails, reviews, presentations, etc.) 38+

Miscellaneous: (grief ministries, special requests, Synod Assembly, etc.): Multiple

Pastoral Care: 15+

Gratefully Submitted, Pastor Hans, “Pastoral Assistant” from 2019 -2025+

Music Ministry Report

This year's report is colored by the loss of my best friend, partner, and wife Debbie. So, I am approaching it with a different take: a timeline of moments in the musical life of the church and me.

February—we celebrated Black History Month and Martin Luther King. The anthems and music (excluding hymns) were entirely focused on Black American composers. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible.

April—on Good Friday, I conducted a joint choir composed of members of the consortium of churches, which presented Hal Hopson's "Service of Darkness" here at Messiah. It was a meaningful and well-received service by all. Two days later, we celebrated a glorious Easter with the return of the Brass Quartet led by Gary Samulski. With much festive music and the Widor Toccata, it was a loud and joyous celebration.

May—I am deeply appreciative and humbled for the support and care given to me by the church this year. Thanks to your generosity and concern, Pam Nicholls filled in for me while I took care of my wife in the last stages of her illness. She passed away on May 24, and I thank the choir members who participated with the Third Presbyterian Church Choir at the Memorial Service.

August—Kyra and Jack returned to sing for morning worship. Appropriately, the song they chose was "The Prayer." It is a joy to hear them together.

September—I resumed choir rehearsals at the beginning of September. Many thanks to all who participate in the musical life of the church, as both singers and ringers.

December—Christmas Eve was a night to remember. Many people participated in the Feast of Music, which was one of the highlights of the year. The many people who sang or played an instrument were Donna Hedstrom and Sandy Moncrief, Quincy Dasher, Kacy Treadwell Collins and Andy Mitchell, Anna Cantrell, The Messiah Ringers, Pamela Nicholls (solo piano and duet with organ) and Breanna Dauphinee who also sang "O Holy Night" during the service.

As we journey through 2026, my hope for everyone is to have strong voices as we worship here at Messiah. Thank you again for all your care and support, and I look forward to continuing our shared ministry of music with you.

Willie La Favor

Director of Music

President's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As I reflect on the past year my mind quickly turns to thoughts of thankfulness for the many ways that Messiah ministries have grown and witnessed to God's love for the world. I am tempted to begin listing these ministries. Some are large and are highly visible within the church, but there are also many where a few disciples gather more quietly to do God's work. All are important and all are valued. And so, without highlighting one particular ministry over another, I want to thank each of you for your part in our witness together. I am so thankful for the power of the Spirit working through Messiah's members and friends to proclaim Christ's love for all.

Messiah continues to be a healthy congregation: our established ministries are stable, we have launched new ministries under the leadership of our members, our lay ministries to provide care and support to our members and friends are growing, our finances are reasonably sound and fiscal oversight has improved, our Council works well together, and we have sound governance policies and procedures. Thanks be to God!

It has been a number of years (with a pandemic along the way) since we, as a congregation, last updated our goals and it is my hope to gather into discussion on some Saturday morning(s) in the year ahead to take stock of where we are, how we are being called, and what our priorities are going forward. These types of discussions can be nebulous, challenging, and rewarding, and the outcome helps us to focus our time and energy in ways that help us to grow individually and in how we serve the community. I hope that you will choose to participate when the time comes.

Messiah is a special place. With God's blessing, we work together, lift each other up, and proclaim the gospel. Thank you for living out our mission: "Called into community, gifted to serve; Glorifying God through love in action!"

In peace,

Jeff Gerstenberger

Worship Ministry Report

Worship Vision Statement

We are a faithful and joyful community gathered to worship, grounded in prayer. As the Body of Christ, we proclaim God's love for the world, share our faith stories, join our voices in song, and create space for all God's children to fully offer their praise to God.

Worship & Music Goals

- *Evaluate and become more cognizant of the various needs that people have entering the church so that we can provide resources and increase engagement in worship to specifically serve and support all of God's children.*
- *Create a sacred space that is adaptable, welcoming, artful and inspirational for all liturgical seasons.*
- *Equip our disciples with a language and spirit to carry our faith and the Gospel story from the Sanctuary into the world today.*
- *Experiment with various prayer forms in worship including using words that come directly from our hearts.*
- *Create an atmosphere of joy in word and song in worship.*

Special Thanks for the Gifts and Talents of those who Serve:

Livestream & A/V Tech Team:

Jeff Gerstenberger
Julie Gerstenberger
Jim Hartmann
Tarra Hartmann
Andy Mitchell
Myah Pios
Matt Robbins
Mark Sutliff
Chris Thomas

Altar Guild:

Rhonda Eastland
Ellen Meyer
Sandy Moncrief
Sharon Stio

Ushers:

Ralph Jones
Barb Corman
John Corman
Wayne Reabold
Rod Speer

Communion Assistants & Lectors:

Each person who volunteers as a Communion Assistant or Lector is greatly appreciated!

Song Leaders, Vocal Choir, Bell Choir:

Vivian Botts
Breanna Dauphinee
Bob Dube
Carol Dunn
Larry Dennis
Donna Hedstrom
Pam Kremmin
Gene Ligtenberg
Joanne Ligtenberg
Ellen Meyer
Amy Mitchell
Andy Mitchell
Sandy Moncrief
Jean Nelson
Pam Nicholls
Joanne Niemi
Claudia Roberts
Kacy Treadwell Collins
Sandy Volta

Worship and Music Team:

Breanna Dauphinee
Jeff Gerstenberger
Janet Graves-Wright
Tarra Hartmann
Shelly Knapp
Willie La Favor
Ellen Meyer
Sandy Moncrief
Joanne Niemi
Reggie Renz
Pastor Aileen Robbins

2025 Reflection:

Looking back on 2025, we're able to reflect upon a vibrant and enriching journey for us as individuals and us as a community. No matter what season we found ourselves in, we experienced the beauty of our faith in all its diverse expressions. In every moment, we celebrated, grieved, lamented, and witnessed the enduring power of God's Word.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter:

Again, this year, our worship and reflection during Lent, extended beyond just Messiah. Along with our Greece Ecumenical Partner Churches, we participated in a simple soup and bread supper followed by prayer service on Friday evenings. Other ecumenical services as a part of Lent included: Ash Wednesday (Greece Baptist), Maundy Thursday (Greece United Methodist Church) and a Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Messiah). We had a triumphant celebration at Easter, accompanied again by our beloved brass musicians!

Worship through the Summer:

In the summer, we celebrated our Second Pride Sunday Service in conjunction with our participation in the Rochester Pride Parade, and founding of our Messiah Pride Group. As we continue to embrace our Statement of Welcome as a community, we continue to embrace the beauty of diversity in worship.

Advent:

The Worship and Music Team voted to use Sanctified Art again during Advent. We were reminded of four key themes throughout worship. Sanctified Art continues to be a meaningful resource to use, offering strong worship materials and music suggestions that leave all of us inspired.

Christmas:

This year, our Christmas Eve celebration, including the Feast of Music, brought much joy to the community, and was a part of the Greece Churches hope to offer multiple options for folks to choose from. Many thanks to all involved in setting up flowers and decorations, and to those who worked hard creating and leading meaningful music.

We ended the year with a Breakfast Church Service, a much-needed space for fellowship.

Gratitude for the Sharing of God's Word:

We were blessed through the preaching of Pastor Aileen Robbins, Pastor Hans Irmer, and Pastor Cheryl Frank, throughout the year. We are also blessed with Andy Mitchell and Breanna Dauphinee who continue to preach.

Filled with gratitude for the many ways we have grown as individuals and as community this year, we look forward to next year. From shared worship experiences, each moment brings us closer to God. With hearts and spirits full of hope, we look forward to continuing this journey together, embracing the diverse opportunities to worship, serve, and share God's love together in the year ahead.

Peace and Blessings,

Breanna Dauphinee
Worship and Music Council Chair

Adult Faith Formation Ministry Report

Introductory Notes: The Adult Faith Formation Ministry includes eight sub-ministries: Adult Education Classes, Spiritual Growth, Joy Beyond the Bend, the Bereavement Ministry, Chair Yoga and Meditation, The Lunch Bunch, Thursday Morning Bible Study, and the Messiah Church Library. It is my goal as the Ministry Chair to visit each group at least once over the next year to discuss their needs and to better understand their ministry functions. So far, I have attended the Chair Yoga and Meditation group, Spiritual Growth, Lunch Bunch, and the others will follow soon. I also co-led the Discipleship Class mentioned below.

Compiled from Ministry Leaders:

Adult Education Classes: The class called "**Discipleship Class: Finding Your Voice: Connecting & Contributing in Community**" was held on Saturday, October 11. The goal of the class was to equip church members with practical strategies and a renewed sense of confidence for engaging in team settings and reaching out to visitors within the church community.

Chair Yoga and Meditation Group continues to meet weekly every Wednesday from 10 am to 11 am. They have a brief socialization period, then prayer before Susan Roth leads the Chair Yoga. About 10:30, the introduction to meditation begins with Joyce Callen and it is usually completed before 11 am. The group has really increased in number including persons who join from Texas and New York City.

Joy Beyond the Bend has celebrated its twenty-third anniversary. It continues to meet regularly except for possible snow days. It has the same format: lunch at a restaurant, a meeting that includes a topic or devotion, sometimes discussion and always prayer before they play a card game. Attendance is quite consistent with 8 to 12 people (including an occasional guest) attending.

Bereavement Ministry continues to send 'Journeying Through Grief' booklets to those who have lost loved ones thanks to Susan Orlando. Our weekly grief support group continues to meet. They celebrated their 6th Anniversary. Generally, there are five people who meet weekly, two of which are community members.

Ripples of Wellness Lunch Bunch: The Lunch Bunch (plant-based) is a Messiah program focused on providing information on the health benefits of a plant-based diet, coupled with an opportunity to sample delicious plant-based foods. They meet the first Tuesday of the month at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Spiritual Growth: The Spiritual Growth group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month via Zoom. They use the *Wired Word* resource to facilitate discussion about current event topics.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Meets regularly on Thursday mornings both in person and via Zoom, and is led by Pastor. It includes shared learning and lively discussion on a variety of teachings.

Messiah Library: Our church library continues to be a great resource of Christian study materials, Christian fiction, DVDs and other materials available for all members to browse and check out.

Respectfully, Lisa Klima
Faith Formation Ministry Chair

Youth & Family Faith Formation Ministry Report

As disciples of the living God, we strive to nurture our children in their identity as a "Child of God" and to celebrate & recognize God's work in them. We strive to provide age appropriate ways for children to address issues they face in daily life. To teach and model skills that nurture God's power within them to be strong while discerning the world around them. We strive to provide ministries that meet the fast paced priorities that families face today, and to nourish their most basic needs for faith.

The role of Youth & Family Faith Formation is to provide opportunities for faith growth & education. It includes children's time during worship, our Sunday School Program, Confirmation class & camp, youth, parent & family groups, and the support & coordination of MAD Camp and the National Youth Gathering experience. We support current programs and encourage new ministries that may be proposed. In effect, this ministry works to provide the best faith opportunities and education that we are able.

There was so much to celebrate and praise God for over the past year. Grace celebrated her Affirmation of Baptism in the spring, during which the church was filled with an abundance of love and well-wishes from family and fellow congregants alike. 2025 also saw the return of MAD Camp! In collaboration with Greece Baptist and Greece United Methodist Churches, Vacation Bible School (MAD Camp) was hosted at Messiah this summer. It was a wonderful week full of laughter, learning, and ministry, all while presenting the Word of God to the community.

The Youth and Family Ministry has so much to offer, and I have been honored to serve on the Council representing this ministry for the last few years. I have learned so much and have been blessed with new relationships I will cherish. Thank you for allowing me to serve as the leader of the Youth and Family Ministry.

Peace, Blessings, and Love,
Miss Amy

Outreach Ministry Report

***Vision Statement:** We are all God's children. As such we strive to be His hands and feet, serving all people. We believe that through thoughtful prayer and commitment we can achieve all God asks of us. We joyfully welcome all into our fellowship, service, and Christian worship as we support each other and care for others. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we serve all in daily life.*

The congregation thanks Mark Sutliff for his leadership of and service to the Outreach Ministry over the last four years. Years when we witnessed great change both in our country and in our Ministry. We emerged from the pandemic years having lost friends and faced with increasing needs to help our community confront the dual demons of poverty and racial and gender discrimination.

With **RocUbuntu**, the ecumenical community of Greece churches, we strive for social justice in our communities and support efforts to improve educational opportunities by donating school supplies and volunteering as tutors – thank you Pastor Hans, Elva McBride, and Cheryl Frank.

In 2025, we continued our focus on Local Benevolence with donations to:

- **Coffee Connection** – supporting women in recovery
- **Family Promise of Greater Rochester** – homeless shelter for families (formerly RAIHN)
- **Foodlink** – a major food supplier for our Food Pantry and the Rochester area
- **Genesee Finger Lakes Conference of the ELCA**
- **Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity** – a significant contribution from one of our members
- **Keeping Our Promise** - comprehensive resettlement assistance for our Afghani allies
- **Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf** - serving the food insecure of Greece and Charlotte
- **Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center and Camp**
- **Open Door Mission** – providing emergency housing and addiction recovery support
- **Reconciling Works** – advocating for LGBTQIA+ participation in Lutheran Churches
- **Support for our Seminary Student**– Breanna Dauphinee
- **Willow Domestic Violence Center** – championing survivor safety, justice, healing and hope

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to these through your benevolence giving, designated donations, and loose offerings.

Our congregation has demonstrated outstanding support for both continuing and new ministries:

- **Angel Tree** – Thank you to all the Angels who gifted 128 children from 42 of our Food Pantry families – Thank you Carol Dunn and Cathy Coe for leading this major undertaking.
- **Kids Christmas Party** – Thank you Stacy Crudele and your elves for continuing this family tradition
- **Bread Pickup** for the benefit of Cameron Community Center – Thank you to John Corman, Larry Dennis, Wayne Reabold and Tops Friendly Markets

- **Coffee Fellowship Hour** – has become an integral part of our Sunday service – thank all of you who sign up to host
- **Creative Hands Ministry** – Thank you Sharon Stio and friends for making warm snuggies for the Meow Ministry and the Food Pantry kids (see Sharon’s report)
- **Food Pantry** – Thank you Reggie Renz and Larry Dennis for leading our efforts (see their report.)

On a personal note, I believe that the Food Pantry is a major factor in uniting our congregation in a common outreach effort that shares our resources, talents and time with those in our community in greatest need. I believe that **everyone** in the congregation has contributed to the continuing success of this ministry – please thank each other and keep doing God’s work.

- **CROP Walk** – The Messiah team of John Corman, Larry Dennis, Joanne and Jerry Niemi, and Wayne Reabold raised \$1738 for the benefit of the Food Pantry – thank you.
- **Grocery Run** – Julie and Jeff Gerstenberger and their extended family raised \$3965 for the benefit of the Food Pantry – thank you.
- **Thrivent 500** – The congregation donated 1104 items in November and qualified for a \$500 special grant from Thrivent for the benefit of the Food Pantry – thank you Larry Dennis.

Funeral Receptions Claudia Roberts and her dedicated team respond to the needs of the individual families to give them a welcoming environment to gather with family and friends. This same team is also called upon to coordinate celebrations, special events, and potluck dinners – thank you all for being so flexible and responsive and fostering our sense of community.

Judy’s Jackets – Thank you Carol Dunn for continuing the legacy of Judy Merritt-Speed and to the congregation for contributing enough new and barely used winter clothing to fill three very large bags each for The Open Door Mission, The Center for Youth, and The Coldwater Women and Children’s Home.

Meow Ministry – thank you to Jennie Bowker and to the congregation for your donations to our four-legged friends. (see Jennie’s report)

Messiah Pride – Thank you to Sheri Treadwell, Kacy (Karen) Treadwell-Collins and Breanna Dauphinee for moving us beyond the designation as a Reconciling in Christ church and on the path to become more welcoming, more inclusive, more educated and informed, and a more active presence within both Messiah and the Rochester community.

Operation Christmas Child – Thank you Larry Dennis for continuing this annual tradition. (see Larry’s report)

Special collections – Thank you Carol Dunn and Shelly Knapp for recognizing and acting upon a special need in our nursing homes and at Willow Domestic Violence Center.

Stephen Ministry – Thank you Julie Gerstenberger and all the Stephen Ministers who have established one-on-one relationships with our members.

Ralph Jones

Messiah Choice Food Pantry

Messiah's Food pantry is an integral part of the community. It needs 3 elements to THRIVE.

First and foremost, we have a passionate group of volunteers unloading trucks, stocking shelves, making up Choice inventories for client selection of additional items to supplement their basic five-day meal pack, packing those basic meal packs, packing the requested additional items, and delivering to the clients. We also have behind the scenes volunteers who pick up food from Tops and Dollar General, a bread lady who delivers bread each distribution day, a book keeper who totals up clients served, an excel wizard who assembles the client list and packing labels for each distribution day, keeping track of the State-required TEPAF forms, ordering and picking up retail food to supplement shortages, and receiving/changing client appointments. We always welcome new volunteers! We were BLESSED with many extra volunteers for our Super Days late November and mid-December.

Second, Money. The Messiah membership is so very generous-we thank you so much. Then there are the funds from sponsors of our runners in the Grocery Run - Jeff and Julie Gerstenberger, those who buy gift cards to Aldi's, Wegman's, or Tops and those who contribute online or as part of their offering. We are also thankful to those who sponsor Thrivent Action Teams, provide toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent to defray the costs of keeping the ministry going. We also applied for a Feeding Ministry Funding Grant from ELCA and hope to hear soon how much we can count on. Through November we've spent \$22,500 from donations, \$1,350 in donated gift cards, \$525 in Thrivent action team cards and \$16,800 in Foodlink grants for a total expense of \$41,175(\$1.47/meal).

Third is the LOVE, PATIENCE, PRAYER, PASSION of our Messiah family and our community partners who recognize the need and show GRACE to their neighbors in need.

In 2025 we serviced a total of 313 family units. We fed on average 466 people/month distributing over 2330 meals/month or an equivalent to 77 meals/day for a grand total of 27,980 meals yearly. In 2025 we fed 1982 children (35%), 2343 adults (42%) and 1320 seniors (23%).

Thank you for your continued support-physically by volunteering, monetarily, and through your enduring love and concern for those in need within our community, The Food Pantry Team.

Creative Hands

Our group meets once a month to knit and crochet for others.

This year we completed our prayer shawls and lapghans that will be given to those in need of a spiritual hug.

Our next project involved partnering with Jennie Bowker's Meow Ministry. We made more than fifty cat beds and mats that were given to shelters and adoption services so our little furry friends could be cozy while waiting for their forever homes.

Currently we are making hats and scarves Carol Dunn to give to the children of our Food Pantry families.

Please join us - we are always looking for new projects for our needles and new faces to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Stio

Operation Christmas Child

We continued the Operation Christmas Child Ministry in a HYBRID way. Members picked up boxes, shopped, and returned the boxes to church. At least two boxes were “PACKED ON-LINE” from the Samaritan’s Purse/Operation Christmas Child website. With help from a Thrivent Action Team grant, a total of twelve Messiah members (many children) came together to pack 20 boxes at church. So, we were able to provide shoe boxes filled with health supplies, school supplies and toys for needy children around the world. We sent 24 shoe boxes to Baltimore, MD where they had “THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST” inserted before departing to South Africa December 16, 2025. Since 2016 (when we could track our boxes), we have sent boxes to sixteen different countries. Thank you to all those who packed a shoe box at home, online, or at church. We packed JOY and LOVE into each and every box and planted the seed of HOPE in a total of 24 children’s hearts and minds. For questions or if you are interested in learning more, talk with Larry Dennis.

Meow Ministry

Meow Ministry is an Outreach Ministry of Messiah Church. We focus on addressing the suffering of God’s furry ones through rescue, feeding of stray and feral cats, and supporting a proven program called TNRV – Trap, Neuter, Return (for feral cats) and vaccination of these homeless felines.

In 2026, Meow Ministry looks forward to supporting our rescue community, including feeders of feral and stray colonies, trappers and foster homes, all dependent upon several resources. We are moved through our hearts and hands to continue God’s work. Because of God’s loving helpers, countless cats have recovered from illness, hunger, injury, abuse and neglect. Food and shelter are the most important here, and numerous cats have benefited from receiving new, loving owners in a forever home. Their newfound safety and comfort are the joyful result, truly evidence of God’s caring and love.

Last year we made new connections with our cat mat program by delivering several hand-knit beds to GRASP in Greece. Those in GRASP receiving the beds loved them. These unique, one-of-a-kind crafts can be given to each cat adopter or foster home or used for other helpful purposes, serving as a reminder of the joint effort being undertaken to provide better lives for homeless cats. The beds are made by Messiah’s Creative Hands and are tagged with the text of Messiah Church and Creative Hands, as well as the Meow Ministry Logo. Each tag is riveted onto the bed and has a faux-leather look and washability.

Cats face the greatest challenges in wintertime. We would like volunteers to build insulated cat shelters as needed, and we have designs for a few of the best styles. If you are handy, this could be your calling at Meow Ministry! Unkind people actually throw these out, when they are needed most. Cats cannot survive the coldest months without these.

A special note of gratitude is offered in memory of Messiah’s late Judy Merritt-Speed, a longtime supporter who had most recently donated kitten chow during the past year.

Our gifts to rescuers:

\$50 & \$100 to Janine the Bean

\$50, \$100 and \$125 to Carol of Ferals and Kittens and Cats, Oh My
New Cat Mats to GRASP

Physical donations gathered at Messiah:

82 lb. dry cat chow

4 lb. dry kitten chow

8 small cans of food, 54 Fancy Feast size food cans

10 cat beds from Creative Hands ministry

3 food bowls

3 fleece throws

3 towels

2 pkgs. Treats

Income:

\$355 checks

\$45 cash donations

\$188 bank

+ \$81 Merch sales (after-church table) \$56 Christmas cards, misc.

\$25 Tee shirts

Total: \$481

\$81

Expenses:

\$50 Current Inc. cards, wrapping paper

\$92 Tee shirts Jim Morris Environmental, Inc.

+\$425 monetary donations to rescuers

Total Expenses: \$567

Meow Ministry has been blessed with growth through your caring and generosity. Greatest thanks to so many!

Submitted by Jennie Bowker

Thrivent, promoting Living Generously

Thrivent is a fraternal financial benefit society originally established to care for Lutheran widows and children. It has developed into a Fortune 500 financial insurance and investment organization that is able to share what would normally go to taxes with communities and organizations through its members. Thrivent encourages and helps members be wise with money so that they can be generous with the ministries they value passionately. There are three different avenues where Thrivent members can direct monies to their impassioned ministries.

1) “Thrivent Choice” which allows members to direct \$ accumulated from the products that they have with Thrivent (insurance and investment instruments), which they can direct to their church or not-for-profit charity or organization. In 2025, Thrivent Messiah members gave over **\$300** to Messiah.

2) “Thrivent Action Teams” which allow members to apply for and conduct projects to help those less fortunate through organizing teams to promote fundraising or service in their community or around the world. Thrivent approves the project descriptions and provides a \$250 debit card as seed money to run the projects. Messiah members have used action teams for a number of projects such as: 1) Operation Christmas Child, 2) Food Pantry, 3) CROP walk, 4) the November Thrivent 500 food drive, 5) Angel Tree ministry, etc. In 2024, Messiah members ran more than 25 Thrivent Action Teams with seed money over **\$6000**. **Numerous members initiated associate memberships in Thrivent for \$19.95/year to host Thrivent Action Teams and receive the \$250 seed money.**

3) “Special grants”- Messiah chose to participate in Thrivent’s “Feed the Northeast Challenges” to collect over five hundred food items to benefit our own Food Distribution ministry, netting well over 1100 food items and an extra **\$500** from Thrivent for our Food Pantry ministry.

Thrivent in cooperation with Messiah members have been instrumental in helping with our Outreach and providing food and comfort to those in our community and around the world. All totaled Thrivent has provided Messiah members with over **\$6800** to allow Messiah members to pursue their ministry passions. If you are interested in knowing more, feel free to contact Larry Dennis. **An investment of \$19.95 annually for a \$250 grant to help a ministry you are passionate about is an Excellent Investment (and return on investment).**

Property Ministry Report

Property Vision:

As faithful followers of God, we join together to provide a sanctuary from life's troubles and storms, a Holy place where all of God's people can come to be embraced in the care, comfort and safety of Jesus' loving arms. We offer our time, talents, and treasure to provide a worship space for the Lord's people to give worship, honor, glory and praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2025 was my fifth year as the Property Committee leader and both major and minor issues arose to surprise me and the property team. Throughout the year, the property team performed numerous repairs and improvements to our physical facility. With their investment of time and hard work, the team saved Messiah a lot of money by tackling the tasks they knew were within their abilities. Everything from cleaning, painting, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and carpentry.

There were numerous Messiah Lutheran members who worked and volunteered on projects this year. We had a Spring and Fall Sanctuary cleaning that many members participated in, and a Spring outdoor yard cleanup that many members and Scouts helped with. We have fellow congregants who shovel the snow from our entranceways. To save money from using an outside contractor, Ellen Meyer and Rhonda Eastland vacuum the Sanctuary and Narthex on Monday mornings. I especially want to thank Don Littlejohn, Dave Best and Jerry Niemi for their continual assistance throughout the year. They show up on Monday mornings, week after week, to work through the issues on our never-ending work list.

Here's a summary and highlights of Messiah's 2025 Property Team activities and the status of Messiah's facilities.

Elevator

1. No unexpected issues this year.
2. The elevator is required to be inspected every 6 months. Our elevator passed both 6-month inspections with no issues. Both times an inspection of the pit revealed a nice dry pit.
3. We are now in the fifth year of a five-year maintenance contract with Otis. The contract expires in October 2026, and I expect we will continue our relationship with Otis. Otis Elevator performed their 2025 contracted Maintenance Management System tasks on January 8, May 6, and September 15.

VRF System

1. Our VRF System can be used both for the heating and cooling our spaces. The compressor units are located outside, in the white pen along the north side of the Fellowship Hall.
 - a. In general, we only use the VRF for air conditioning. The Sanctuary is only cooled on Sundays, for our services, and during the week when the Sanctuary is scheduled for a specific use. The remainder of the upper level, the "office area", is cooled only during working hours.

- b. You may hear the floor and ceiling VRF units running during the winter and wonder why that is. We have the system programmed so the fans in those individual units run when the boiler raises the building heat during working hours. The fans help distribute the heat being radiated by the radiators.
2. We are now in the fifth year of a HVAC maintenance contract relationship with Emcor Betlem. The contract has been renewed annually on September 1 since 2021. The 2025 VRF System preventative maintenance was performed per our contract with Emcor Betlem.
 - a. Per the contract, the property team performs Wintertime cleaning of the VRF units' air filters. This task entails removing, washing, and reinstalling over 50 filters in the floor, ceiling, and wall VRF units.

Boiler Hot Water Heating System

1. Boiler preventative maintenance was performed per our HVAC contract with Emcor Betlem.
2. In December 2025, a 6-inch gasket on the large boiler's outlet failed, allowing extremely hot water to spray about the boiler room. Nobody was hurt; nothing was damaged or lost. The possibility of this failure could not be anticipated during the routine preventative maintenance inspections or testing. Unfortunately, the disassembly/reassembly of piping that had not been touched since the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were constructed was time consuming; the repair bill was \$68 in parts and \$1000 in labor!

Other Hardware

1. The HVAC contract also covers annual preventative maintenance on the air makeup unit on the south side of Messiah, and the kitchen stove's exhaust fan.
2. The church council agrees that our kitchen dishwasher should be repaired. The funds have been allocated in the 2026 budget; if the budget is passed by congregation vote in January, the dishwasher repairs will be scheduled.
3. The control thermostat/valve on the large water heater failed. Valve was replaced by Simco Plumbing for \$530 vs. \$2,000 for a new water heater.
4. Two ceiling lighting units located by the mailbox have failed. These are from the year 2006, they are strip LED units and cannot be repaired. One of the units was replaced in December; the other will be replaced in January 2026. \$434 for the two of them.

Utilities

1. Our RGE utility costs continue to be the major item in our property budget. We do everything we can to conserve God's gift of energy and keep the bills as low as possible.
2. The 2025 electric usage was up 7,311 kwh, resulting in an increase cost of \$3,986 from 2024.
3. The actual electric energy cost increase was \$2,333, but the delivery charges from RGE were up \$1,654.
4. The 2025 natural gas usage was 3502 therms more, resulting in an increase in cost of \$3015 from 2024.
5. So that gives us a total 2025 RGE bill of \$19,549, up \$7,025 from 2024. That is a lot of money; in 2025 we had a very cold winter and hot summer.

6. If you are inside Messiah during the week, you will agree that in the summer the air-conditioned spaces are not all that cool and in the winter the rooms' temperature is not all that warm. There is no reason to excessively heat or cool such a large building when there are only a few people in a couple rooms.
 - a. That said, if you are always uncomfortable, think the Sanctuary should be a bit cooler during summer Sunday services or warmer in the winter, let me know. We can easily adjust the settings.
 - b. If you are in the Fellowship Hall for food distribution and it is cool, use the up arrow on the thermostat by the boiler room door to raise the temperature a couple degrees. Turn the temp down when you leave. Remember, never use the hold function.

Plumbing

1. We continue to inspect and clean our lawn catch basins, ensuring water is draining to our creek. And we go down into the creek and run a 50' snake up the drain lines, making sure the lines are clear. All our sump pumps pump their water into these catch basins, so it is imperative their operation is correct. We have moisture/leak detector sensors on the floor next to every sump pump. They are there to monitor for sump pump failure.
2. In January 2026, the property team will disassemble, clean, and reassemble the sewer backflow apparatus under the floor in the choir room. We perform this task annually.
3. In 2025 we had no recurrence of our past clogged plumbing issues. Yeah! Please remember that nothing should be flushed except our body waste and TP.

Trees and Landscaping

1. During this last year, we had High Falls Tree Service remove the last of the dead ash trees in our north forest. Yeah! Going forward, we will only have to schedule routine maintenance.
2. We are in serious need of a volunteer to maintain the flowerbed around our lawn sign.
3. A big thank you to Mary Sonnevile for her work on the flowerbeds by our main entrance!

Other Issues and Accomplishments

1. Here's a list of some of the other repairs the Property Team performed this year:
 - a. VRF filters were cleaned.
 - b. The veneer on damaged pews was repaired.
 - c. A urinal and commode were repaired.
 - d. The entrance stairs were painted.
 - e. A scratched tabletop was refinished.
 - f. Door weather seal insulation was installed/repaired on 2 exterior doors.

Scouts and Brownies

Troop 130 of the BSA Seneca Waterways Council is in their fifth year having Messiah as their chartering organization. Six boys and their leaders meet most Monday nights from 7:00 – 8:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. The troop is down 50% in attendance in the last year; several Scouts “aged” out and the remainder dropped out. This is a very active troop and Scouting

America, scouting.org, is open to both boys and girls. If your children or grandchildren are looking for an activity outside organized sports, have them come to a troop meeting. The Scouts and their parents and their adult leaders helped with our 2025 Spring lawn cleanup.

Unfortunately, Messiah's Brownie troop disbanded in 2025.

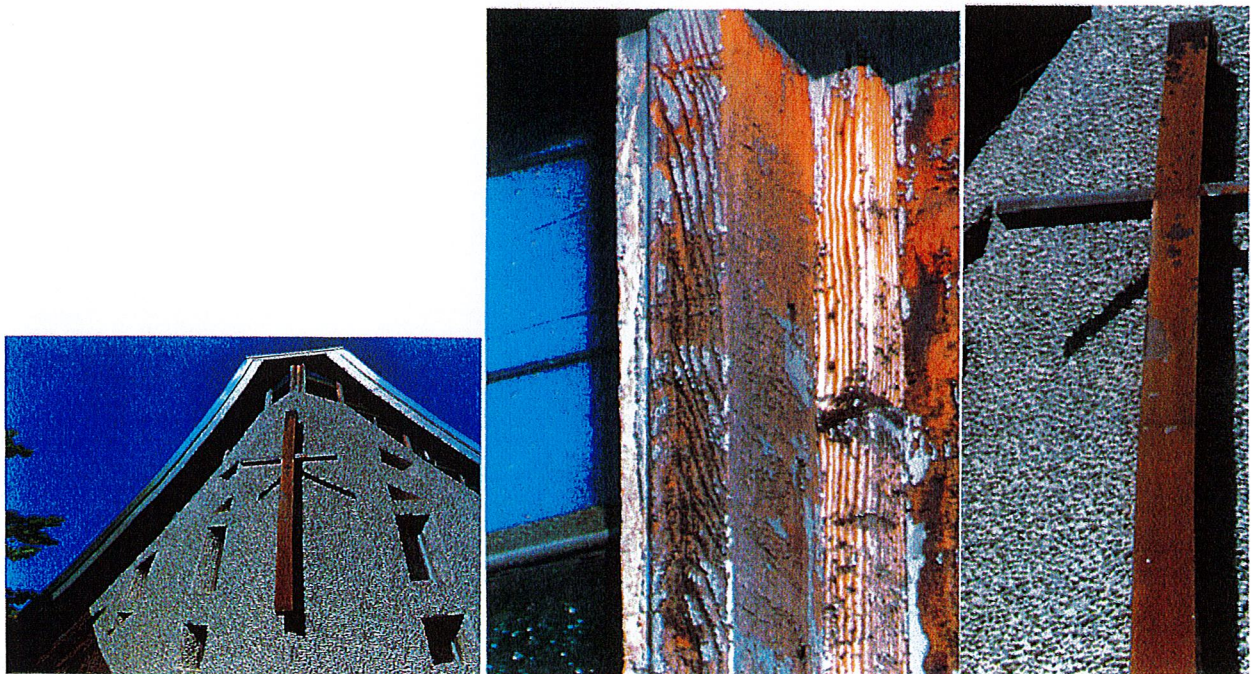
Exterior Repairs

Below is an exact copy from the 2022 annual report. I have made zero progress on finding a general contractor that will quote on the repairs we need. Like many of you, we have people who won't return phone calls, or come and decline to quote, or come and we never hear from them again. If any of you have suggestions for general contractors to contact, please talk with me.

We need a significant number of repairs to be carried out on the exterior of our buildings. Our main entrance needs cleaning and painting, and the entrance's height precludes the property team performing the repairs. We have over 24 metal window lintels that have a coating of rust. They should be sanded down and coated with a rust preventative paint. The roof eaves are wood. It has been decades since they were last painted/stained, and several are deteriorating. Our eastern side, facing Mt. Read Blvd., the front face of the church, needs a lot of repairs. The wood at the top of the side is in poor condition. The surface of the cross is splotchy; it should be sanded down and repainted or replated. The cross on the south side of the church needs to be repaired or replaced. And the north entrance needs a complete paint or stain job.

I have talked with one contractor that has experience with working on buildings and churches as high as Messiah is and his first quote was \$80,000 to bring the exterior up to snuff. How can it be this much? Just one item: To reach the top of the church to work on the eaves and repair the east side requires a manlift that rents for \$8,000/ week. With cost overruns and inflation, I would estimate we would need a \$100,000 capital campaign to raise the funds.

I have talked with a single contractor. If you know of a Rochester company that could tackle this type of repair project on our church, please contact me.



Volunteers Needed

The Property Committee is open to anyone who wants to lend a hand in caring for our wonderful Messiah campus. You don't have to be an expert in carpentry or a licensed plumber. Much of our work is routine and mundane; we see something that needs fixing or rearranging, or cleaning and we add it to our list of to-do tasks. Out of the 52 Mondays in 2024, we probably met 40 Monday mornings starting at 9:00 and finishing before noon. If you enjoy outside work, the flower and landscaping team could always use an extra hand. Even wandering about the property and lawn weekly picking up trash and litter is a task that needs to be performed.

Specifically, we could use:

1. Monday morning helpers with vacuuming the Sanctuary and Narthex, wiping down counters in the restrooms.
2. Additional help with this winter's snow shoveling. We need someone to cover the weekends.

Respectfully submitted for the Property Committee Team,

Paul Williams, Committee Chair

Stewardship Ministry Report

In 2025 the Stewardship Team continued with the theme of “Our Treasures”. On February 23rd we sponsored a Potluck Luncheon and Treasure Hunt after Sunday Worship. The Treasure Hunt consisted of a worksheet that Teams used to find different Treasures around our church. It was a nice time, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and the conversations on the topics were excellent. I was very pleased with the fellowship aspect of it, too, and the fun nature was a welcome change.

Following that up, on April 27th we had another potluck luncheon and this time the program was “Our Ministry Treasures”. Each person in attendance got a sheet of paper that looked like a huge bingo card with many different boxes. Within each box was a description of a ministry at Messiah. Participants had to go around the room and find people who were involved in the different ministries and put their names in the box. The activity had folks get to know each other better, created some good conversations and at the end, everyone had a list that they took home with them, of people in different ministries and their names. Fun was had by all!

On June 21st the Stewardship Team along with the Food Ministry Team had a Garage Sale with all the proceeds going to the Food Pantry. Folks brought in their gently used items, set them up on tables in the parking lot, and had huge fun in the sun selling their items. We also sold hot dogs and water. Over \$900 was raised for the Food Pantry.

During the months of July and August in the Narthex, Stewardship had “Our Treasured Pets and Stuffed Animals”. This was a chance for people to display a photo of their pets or a physical stuffed animal for everyone to see. Many photos of pets and a whole basket of stuffed animals were shared. On October 3rd at 5 pm we had a special worship service outside of church for all our Treasured Pets and Stuffed Animals. There was a short lesson and special individual blessing for each pet that came, and treats, too! We had a dozen cats and dogs and many humans attend.

Whether a Church Treasure, a Ministry Treasure, a Treasured Pet or Stuffed Animal, we all have many Treasures that are different from the next person’s Treasures. All these different Treasures are the same as they are gifts from God.

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign Theme is “Taking Care”. Taking Care of yourself so that you can better help take care of others. Matthew 22:39 says love your neighbor as yourself. This is a call to respect, care and love everyone as yourself. “As Yourself” may not promote self-love but assumes a natural human tendency to care for oneself as a standard for how to care for others. So, let’s learn how to care for ourselves first, so then we will be able to care for others better.

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign Sundays were October 5th, 12th, and Commitment Sunday was October 19th 2025. We had temple talks, children’s messages, lessons and stories all themed around Taking Care of Ourselves and our Physical Health, Mental Health and Spiritual Health. Also, on October 19th we had a Potluck Luncheon following worship.

In 2026, we will be having “Taking Care Sessions” on some Sundays after worship. Ideas are for a mental health professional to come in and talk. For physical health, have BP checks return and possibly one of our Wellness Groups speak. Also to have a Spiritual Health discussion.

Thank you all for being good stewards of God!

Jim Hartmann

Communications Ministry Report

The Website Team continues to design a new template for the Messiah website. We discussed ways to make it easier to navigate and find relevant information. We have our Reconciliation in Christ Statement in a prominent position to inform people looking for a church community that truly welcomes all people. The team drafted a new logo, and Paul created a beautiful drone photograph of the church. Dave Best surveyed the council and other website content contributors and then updated the website. The team suggested a repository of photos to use on our website. The website is an effective way to communicate with current members regarding upcoming events and to educate and welcome new members. The website includes The Herald, Announcements, and special upcoming events for your planning. It also defines what it means to be an ELCA Lutheran, includes congregation history, our mission, and of course, our policies, along with many other resources.

Cathy Coe does an amazing job of notifying Dave of any additions/changes and he efficiently makes the requested website updates

I appreciate the creativity of the 2025 website team, consisting of Vicki Robinson, Paul Tomblin, Katherine Loader, and Dave Best, and all the contributors.

The Herald is a powerful newsletter that Cathy configures and distributes each month. She collects the submissions to the Herald, sends it to Matt Robbins who adds graphics and does the final layout. She then sends it to Dave Best for the website, and facilitates mailing. If you have articles or information that should be included in the Herald, please email messiahoffice1@gmail.com or put them in the mailbox designated “Herald mailbox #21”. The deadline is the 12th of the prior month.

The Herald includes a message from Pastor Aileen, an updated financial report, and invitations to many upcoming events, including opportunities to serve, and ministry updates.

Weekly Announcements and Bulletins are sent out by email on Fridays as well as printed and distributed prior to each service. Cathy also creates and distributes these.

The physical **Communications Board** works well to advertise events and enables people to sign up for events, especially our potlucks and education opportunities.

Our Sunday Services continue to be available via **Zoom**, and this remote option is used and appreciated by many members. Zoom provides access for some of the Outreach Ministries; Yoga and Meditation, and bible studies are examples of these. The Zoom links are conveniently included in the weekly announcements. Our Zooming has allowed people to join services and groups from outside the Rochester area.

Thank you to the Website team, the tech teams that supports our Zoom services, and to each of the many volunteers that produce and distribute the Herald and Bulletin. Thanks to everyone posting on social media, for the phone calls, mailings, and all the various ways of keeping us connected. All of us appreciate your time and talent.

A special Thank You to Cathy Coe for her dedication and work on the Herald, Announcements, Bulletins, prayer group, and emails that keep a continuous flow of communications.

2025 is my last year serving on Messiah's Council. It has been an honor to work with your dedicated church leaders. I hope my successor enjoys the humor and creative problem-solving of the new council in 2026.

- Messiah's website: <http://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net>
- Messiah's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahRoc>
- Messiah's Group Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MessiahRoc/>

Prayerfully,

Laurie Simonson

Finance Director's Report

Thank you so much to Julie Gerstenberger, Treasurer, for keeping careful and accurate records of our spending.

Tim Hutton, Finance Secretary, does a great job overseeing pledges and income. Thank you again to our experienced offering counters: Brad Roberts, John and Sandy DiCillo, Don and Martha Littlejohn, and Maer Rivera.

Karen DeRyke continues to serve as our payroll clerk. In addition, she oversaw our 2025 Audit Committee. Along with Kacy Treadwell-Collins, they completed this year's audit. Thank you to both of them for the hours they spent verifying our procedures and records.

Jeff Gerstenberger served on the Finance Committee with Tim and Julie. This team continues to oversee our income and expenses, the audit team, and our investments and passthrough accounts. I am grateful for their expertise and insights.

Wayne Reabold is retiring from the finance team. Thank you for his many years of service.

Our Council agreed to start our 2026 budget process a month earlier than in the past. We began planning in October. This led to a successful budgeting season and I'm grateful for their flexibility.

Thank you to the congregation for your continuing generosity. It would be impossible to support our many ministries without your financial support. If you ever have any questions or concerns about Messiah's finances, please reach out. My email is andrew.david.mitchell@gmail.com and my cell is 585.752.8943.

Respectfully,

Andy Mitchell

Finance Director

Council Nominations

Ralph Jones - Outreach

My wife, Patsy, and I joined Messiah in 1970 as part of the Kodak hiring splurge. My son Eric and his family live in Chicago and my daughter Christy lives in Brooklyn. As we were emerging from the pandemic, Patsy recommended me to Pastor to take on the ushering responsibilities with Rod Speer's help. I grew to enjoy the greeting, meeting and learning more about the families who had been such familiar faces for so long. I was particularly buoyed by the support I received after Patsy's death in 2023 and have come, like many of you, to think of the members of Messiah as my second family.

I'm looking forward to supporting the many "passion projects" that fall under the Outreach Ministry's umbrella, most of which are the result of the bottom-up empowerment of individual members by Pastor Aileen and the council. I encourage each of us to step up and step into the many opportunities that are available to us both inside and outside the walls of Messiah. Many new friends-in-waiting will welcome your participation.

Joanne Niemi - Stewardship

I grew up in Roseville, Minnesota and have been a Lutheran all my life. Roseville is a suburb of St. Paul. I attended Prince of Peace Lutheran Church where some of my relatives still attend. I was active in Luther League (youth group back in the day), and Young Life through my high school years. I attended church camp in northern Minnesota and Young Life camp in Colorado. These experiences shaped my faith.

I was active in church as a youth, teaching Bible School to the younger kids. I was in choir and early on realized my passion involved worship and music. For several years I have been the chairperson and/or on the worship and music committee. At Messiah I became involved with the Stewardship Team and council.

I am a retired teacher having taught Biology and General Science in the Rochester City School District. I loved teaching because it combined my passion for teaching about this incredible world God has entrusted to us and my desire to help others learn and grow. At Messiah we take our call to serve others seriously and we know that God is there to lead us every step of the way.

Kacy Treadwell-Collins- Communications

Kacy (Karen) Treadwell-Collins and her wife, Sheri, have been members of Messiah since moving to the area in 2011. Together with Sheri and Bree Dauphinee, Kacy helped start the Messiah Pride ministry in 2025, which works to actively promote Messiah's culture of inclusivity and expand outreach to members of marginalized communities.

Kacy works for the Department of Labor, supporting apprenticeship programs for local businesses and nonprofit organizations. In her free time, she serves on the board of directors and music selection committee for the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and enjoys painting, photography, her animals, outdoor activities, and traveling.

Carol Dunn – Youth and Family Faith Formation

I grew up in Rochester, and was married to Art Dunn for over 46 years, until his death 11 years ago. My son, Shawn and daughter-in-law Andrea blessed me with a beautiful granddaughter, Jenavieve. After Andrea passed I have helped raise “Jenna”, which has brought me great joy.

I joined Messiah approximately 10 years ago. The best decision I ever made, the congregation makes me feel that I have “come home.”

I first found a passion about 2 ½ years ago, when the school backpack program was cancelled. It spoke to my heart, so with the help of Reggie Renz and Larry Dennis I started packing individual bags to be given to our children from our Food Pantry. With the help of Reggie and Larry we obtained a grant for storage lockers to keep our goods clean and dry.

Two years ago I took over the Angel Tree Gift program, along with Cathy Coe who has my back in all my projects. We also could not have done any of it without the help and patience of Ralph Jones, and a very generous congregation.

Last summer “25” I helped lead three churches to produce MAD Camp, hosted at Messiah—Fun, Music, and Love with children from our three churches and neighbors.

This year I received a Grant from the Messiah Endowment Fund to collect items for various nursing homes in the Greece area. As a thank you we hosted a ham dinner.

Finally this year I took over the winter coat project now known as “Judy’s Jackets” and collected coats and other warm items for 3 different organizations.

Looking forward to many more projects and improving the lives of our children. Thank you and God Bless.

The Endowment Fund

Messiah has a long-established Endowment Fund. It is administered by a five-member Board of Trustees. The purpose of this fund is to offer the opportunity of donating to the fund's principal which is kept intact while generating income to support the church's mission. The Endowment Fund's charter has been changed to permit the disbursement of 10% of the previous year's accumulated income.

The Board of Trustees manages this disbursement through Ministry Project Grants. In 2025 we considered several applications for grants and approved the following:

- | | | | |
|----------|--|--|------------|
| Grant #1 | Carol Dunn | <i>Showered with Grace and Love</i> | \$349.74 |
| | This ministry project collected snacks, "prize" items, puzzle books, lap robes, and personal Christmas cards for Latta Road East, Latta Road West, and Granville nursing homes. She also provided a "Thank You" luncheon for Messiah volunteers. | | |
| Grant #2 | Sheri Treadwell-Collins | <i>Messiah Pride- Flag for building</i> | \$230.80 |
| | This ministry project acquired a Pride flag to be displayed outside our building. | | |
| Grant #3 | Sheri Treadwell-Collins | <i>Messiah Pride- Rochester Pride Parade</i> | \$1,448.93 |
| | This ministry provided a banner, T-shirts, stickers/decals, float supplies and decorations, and give-aways (sweet treats and info card about Messiah). | | |

These Ministry Project Grants are now available to Messiah members to be used to finance special projects such as to fundraise, provide service activities or educate people about important issues. We seek to serve the members of our congregation, our community, and our world, providing ways for people to grow in their faith while serving God's people. Applications are available from the Church Office.

As of the end of 2025, the total principal (donations) of the Endowment Fund was 44,837.04 and the total value of was \$226,209.03. 10% of the difference between the principal and the earnings is approximately \$18,137.20, which will be the amount available for Ministry Project Grants during 2026.

The Board has had the following members during 2025, with the notation of their terms of service. A special thank you to Brad Roberts who has completed his second 3-year term. We will be electing three trustees.

Brad Roberts	Finished second 3-year term
Gary Cantleberry	Finished first 3-year term
Ellen Meyer	Finished first 3-year term
Joanne Niemi	Finished second year of 3-year term
Martha Littlejohn	Finished second year of 3-year term

The following people are nominated for 3-year terms:

Gary Cantleberry

I have been a member of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran for more the 40 years. I have served two times on the church council and on various committees over the years.

Barbara Corman

My husband and I joined Messiah in 1980. We have two children and two grandchildren. Over the years I have served on council twice, many committees, and supported youth projects. I taught 2nd grade for 28 years in the Rochester City Schools.

Ellen Meyer

I love being involved at church, working with other committed Christians to create a church community that supports and cares for all of God's people and creation. I feel fortunate to be a member of such a faithful and loving church family at Messiah.

Messiah's 2025 Statistical Highlights

Confirmed 1/1/25	369	Baptized 1/1/25	412
Confirmands	1	Child Baptisms	1
Deaths	8	Deaths	8
Removed	88	Removed	116
Received	1	Received	1
Confirmed 12/31/25	275	Baptized 12/31/25	290

*** The removed numbers reflect adults and children who have not attended or contributed for the past several years and were removed per our constitution.**

Attendance:	<u>'25</u>	<u>'24</u>	<u>'23</u>	Funeral or Memorial Services:	7
Average	89	97	97		
Easter	152	187	153		
Christmas Eve	123	110	168		

Note that the Sunday average for this year reflects the end of the 5 pm service.

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

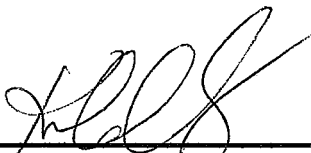
REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has performed a thorough examination of the financial reports and accounts of the congregation of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church—including the operating fund, designated funds, the Memorial Fund, and the Endowment Fund—in collaboration with the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. It is hereby certified that the financial reports and accounts of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church were found to be correct and in good order.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen DeRyke



Kacy Treadwell-Collins

January 01, 2026

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT
January - December 2025

	2025 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	ACT. VS. BUDGET	% DIFF
Income				
Envelope Income for Current Expenses	\$ 309,307	\$ 310,452	\$ (1,145)	0%
Envelope Income for Benevolences	\$ 6,966	\$ 10,180	\$ (3,214)	-32%
Other Income (incl. Seasonal and Loose Offerings)	\$ 16,958	\$ 7,700	\$ 9,258	120%
Pastoral Synod Salary Reimbursement	\$ 25,800	\$ 26,500	\$ (700)	-3%
Carryover Transfer	\$ 4,818	\$ 4,818	\$ -	0%
Concord Transfer	\$ 8,850	\$ 8,850	\$ -	0%
Total Income, Reimbursement, and Transfers	\$ 372,698	\$ 368,500	\$ 4,198	1.1%

Expenses

Service Ministry				
Synod Benevolence	\$ 37,350	\$ 37,350	\$ -	0%
Local Benevolence	\$ 9,345	\$ 9,600	\$ (255)	-3%
Total Service Ministry	\$ 46,695	\$ 46,950	\$ (255)	-1%
Outreach Ministry				
Total Outreach Ministry	\$ 5,023	\$ 5,600	\$ (577)	-10%
Worship & Music Ministry				
Music	\$ 2,860	\$ 3,450	\$ (590)	-17%
Worship	\$ 3,304	\$ 2,850	\$ 454	16%
Total Worship & Music Ministry	\$ 6,164	\$ 6,300	\$ (136)	-2%
Faith Formation				
Youth and Family Ministry	\$ 2,286	\$ 3,450	\$ (1,164)	-34%
Adult Faith Formation	\$ 939	\$ 950	\$ (11)	-1%
Total Faith Formation	\$ 3,225	\$ 4,400	\$ (1,175)	-27%
Staff Compensation				
Ordained Staff	\$ 143,003	\$ 161,608	\$ (18,605)	-12%
Lay Staff	\$ 62,813	\$ 63,709	\$ (896)	-1%
Total Staff Compensation	\$ 205,815	\$ 225,317	\$ (19,502)	-9%
Property				
Cleaning Services	\$ 10,792	\$ 11,822	\$ (1,030)	-9%
Maintenance	\$ 45,115	\$ 44,556	\$ 559	1%
Total Property	\$ 55,907	\$ 56,378	\$ (471)	-1%
Office Infrastructure				
Office General Supplies	\$ 2,382	\$ 3,200	\$ (818)	-26%
Office Equipment Maintenance and Replacement	\$ 5,323	\$ 5,500	\$ (177)	-3%
Information Technology	\$ 481	\$ 1,000	\$ (519)	-52%
Total Office Infrastructure	\$ 8,186	\$ 9,700	\$ (1,514)	-16%
Communications				
Total Communications	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ (100)	-100%
Finance				
Taxes, Insurance, etc.	\$ 11,122	\$ 11,600	\$ (478)	-4%
Other	\$ 293	\$ 1,055	\$ (762)	-72%
Total Finance	\$ 11,415	\$ 12,655	\$ (1,240)	-10%
Stewardship				
Total Stewardship	\$ 940	\$ 1,100	\$ (160)	-15%
2025 Total Funds Used	\$ 343,371	\$ 368,500	\$ (25,129)	-6.8%

Year-End Budget Surplus	\$29,327
Transferred to Concord Fund	\$8,850
Transferred to Carryover Fund for use in 2026 Budget	\$6,935
Transferred to Greater Messiah Fund	\$13,542

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH DESIGNATED FUNDS
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2025

Fund Name	BALANCE Year End 2024	Expenses	Receipts (inc. grants#)	Transfers from Operating Budget	BALANCE Year End 2025 (prior to any surplus allocation)	Year-end Transfer from Operating Budget Surplus	BALANCE Year End 2025 (inc. any surplus allocation)
Angel Tree	\$455.85	\$2,528.59	\$3,073.90		\$1,001.16		\$1,001.16
Capital Campaign	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Concord	\$203,188.35	\$8,850.00	\$0.00		\$194,338.35	\$8,850.00	\$203,188.35
Current Carryover	\$4,818.00	\$4,818.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$6,935.00	\$6,935.00
ELCA Youth Gathering*	\$23,597.43	\$250.00	\$1,140.00	\$2,000.00	\$26,487.43		\$26,487.43
Flower Fund	\$11.35	\$174.85	\$170.00		\$6.50		\$6.50
Food Pantry**	\$16,459.41	\$49,711.45	\$62,250.98	\$3,000.00	\$31,998.94		\$31,998.94
Greater Messiah Fund*	\$28,145.18	\$5,050.00	\$16,700.00		\$39,795.18	\$13,541.69	\$53,336.87
Habitat for Humanity	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Kitchen Fund	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$300.00		\$300.00
Library Fund	\$517.28	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$517.28		\$517.28
Memorials	\$18,805.82	\$4,794.48	\$3,075.00		\$17,086.34		\$17,086.34
Music Ministry	\$50.29	\$2,351.25	\$5,070.00		\$2,769.04		\$2,769.04
Pastors' Discretionary Fund	\$994.19	\$599.39	\$1,115.00		\$1,509.80		\$1,509.80
Stephen Ministries		\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Unemployment Escrow	\$1,015.35	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,015.35		\$1,015.35
Youth Ministries/ Scholarship	\$612.00	\$0.00	\$688.00		\$1,300.00		\$1,300.00
TOTAL	\$298,970.50	\$80,628.01	\$94,782.88	\$5,000.00	\$318,125.37	\$29,326.69	\$347,452.06

*Inc. Donor-Restricted & Unrestricted Funds

+Inc. Foodlink Grants

#First year all tracked Thrivent Grants have been included in this report

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
2025 BENEVOLENCE DISTRIBUTIONS**

	Budgeted*	Unbudgeted**	Total
Angel Tree	\$ -	\$ 2,539	\$ 2,539
Asylum Support Appeal	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 700
CROP Walk	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 200
ELCA - Genesee Finger Lakes Conference	\$ 438	\$ -	\$ 438
ELCA - Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center	\$ 175	\$ -	\$ 175
ELCA - Upstate NY Synod Mission	\$ 36,850	\$ -	\$ 36,850
ELCA - World Hunger/Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000
Family Promise (formerly RAIHN)	\$ 1,560	\$ -	\$ 1,560
Food Pantry	\$ 3,000	\$ 46,711	\$ 49,711
Foodlink	\$ 475	\$ -	\$ 475
Greece Food Shelf	\$ 1,050	\$ -	\$ 1,050
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 438	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,938
Keeping Our Promise	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 1,100
Lutheran World Relief	\$ -	\$ 700	\$ 700
Meow Ministry	\$ 40	\$ 615	\$ 655
Open Door Mission	\$ 950	\$ -	\$ 950
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 495	\$ 599	\$ 1,094
Reconciling Works	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250
ROCUbuntu	\$ -	\$ 1,201	\$ 1,201
Seminary Student Support	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
South Wedge Mission	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
Willow Domestic Violence Shelter	\$ 1,025	\$ -	\$ 1,025
	\$ 49,695	\$ 56,165	\$ 105,860

*Budgeted Benevolence Distributions funded by contributions to our Operating Budget

**Unbudgeted Benevolence Distributions specifically directed by the donor

Note: Totals include non-cash receipts like Thrivent Action grants, FoodLink grants, and donated gift cards

Messiah Lutheran Church

Endowment Fund

Report of the Treasurer

Jan - Dec 2025

Year End Values		
Vanguard	2024	2025
Intermediate Term Bond Index	\$44,139.32	\$47,915.99
500 Index	\$141,223.43	\$166,401.38
Money Market (cash)	\$12,994.57	\$11,827.33
Vanguard Total	\$198,357.32	\$226,144.70
Cash in Designated Funds	\$0.00	\$0
Endowment Checking	\$0.00	\$64.33
Total of Vanguard & Designated Cash	\$198,357.32	\$226,209.03
Principle	\$44,432.04	\$44,837.04
Earnings	\$153,925.28	\$181,371.99
10% Available	\$15,392.53	\$18,137.20

Projects:

#1 Showered with Grace and Love	\$349.74
#2 Messiah Pride Flag	\$230.80
#3 Pride Float	\$1,448.93
Total Disbursements	\$2029.47

Endowment Committee: Gary Cantlebery, Martha Littlejohn, Joanne Neimi, Ellen Meyer, Brad Roberts

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet

Consolidated - December 2025

ASSETS

BANK ACCOUNTS

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

Canandaigua National Bank \$28,138

CASH ON HAND

Petty Cash \$244

INVESTMENTS

ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS

500 Index Fund \$166,401

Inter-Term Bond Fund \$47,916

Endowment MM \$11,827

Subtotal Endowment Investments \$226,145

OTHER FUND INVESTMENTS

2YR CD (10/26/26, 3.8%) \$80,575

1YR CD (10/29/26, 3.65%) \$80,512

General Fund Money Mkt \$185,460

Subtotal Other Fund Investments \$346,547

Subtotal Investments \$572,692

FIXED ASSETS

BUILDINGS

Property \$1,900,000

TOTAL ASSETS \$2,501,073

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

PASS THRU CONTRIBUTIONS

PT: ROCUbuntu \$2,476

OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Credit Card - CNB/FNBO \$1,355

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$3,831

The Assets categories outline all of our financial assets - bank accounts, investments, and real estate.

We have reallocated our funds over the past year to improve our returns, and have included more investment detail here to provide transparency in how we are maximizing the value of our funds.

The Liabilities categories outline areas where we owe money - payroll withholdings not yet paid, or monies received for another organization that we should not consider as Messiah's income (referred to as "Passthrough"; e.g. the CROP walk)

EQUITY

UNRESTRICTED

Concord Fund	\$194,338
ELCA Youth Gathering/UR	\$23,677
Food Pantry/UR	\$9,580
Greater Messiah Fund/UR	\$37,895
Unemployment Escrow/UR	\$1,015
Undesignated Net Assets	\$52,908
Real Estate Equity	\$1,900,000

Total Unrestricted \$2,219,414

DONOR RESTRICTED

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

Angel Tree	\$1,001
ELCA Youth Gathering/DR	\$2,811
Flower Fund	\$7
Food Pantry/DR	\$22,419
Greater Messiah Fund/DR	\$1,900
Kitchen Fund	\$300
Library Fund	\$517
Memorials	\$17,086
Music Ministry	\$2,769
Pastors Discretion. Fund	\$1,510
Youth Ministries	\$1,300

Subtotal Temporarily Restricted \$51,620

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

Endowment - Investments	\$226,145
Endowment - Checking	\$64

Subtotal Permanently Restricted \$226,209

Total All Donor Restricted \$277,829

TOTAL EQUITY \$2,497,243

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$2,501,073

The Equity categories now outline in full how we divide up our Assets.

The Equity categories also track the amount of funds that are "Donor-Restricted" for a specific use per IRS rules. In addition to Donor-Restricted Equity Funds, we have other Equity funds that the IRS considers "Unrestricted" but that we as a congregation have designated for a specific use, such as the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund or the Concord Fund. In a few cases we have both Donor-Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds for the same specific use (where the Unrestricted Funds typically come from our Annual Operating Budget). In that case we track the monies separately and spend down Donor-Restricted monies first to maximize our financial flexibility.

By tracking all of our Assets by Equity categorization, we can monitor the total of our Assets that are completely Undesignated - available to pay routine expenses or designate for new ministries.

Messiah's financial policies and Designated Fund purposes are described in our Policy Document, available online at <https://www.messiahlutheranchurch.net/content/constitution-bylaws-continuing-resolutions-policy-etc>

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

2025 / 2026 Projected Income Breakdown

	2025	2026	% Change
# Pledges	82	84	2%
Will Give As Able Pledges	12	13	8%
Previously Pledging Families That Did Not Pledge	13	12	-8%
Total # of Giving Families	107	109	2%

	2025	2026	% Change
Pledged Operating Income	\$258,952	\$257,362	-1%
Estimated Non-Pledged Income[A]	\$51,500	\$49,758	-3%
Pledged Benevolence Income[B]	\$10,180	\$4,700	-54%
Synod Pastoral Salary Reimbursement	\$26,500	\$26,445	0%
Interest Income	\$7,700	\$12,000	56%
<i>Transfer From Carry Over Fund (Savings)</i>	<i>\$4,818</i>	<i>\$6,935</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Transfer From Concord Fund (Savings)</i>	<i>\$8,850</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>-100%</i>
Total Operating Income & Transfers	\$368,500	\$357,200	-3%

For 2025, Estimated Non-Pledged Income = 20% of Pledged Operating Income. For 2026, Estimated Non-Pledged Income = 90% of 2025 Actual Non-Pledged Income

[A]: Estimated Non-Pledged Income includes seasonal offerings, loose offering, special benevolence, other, use of church, miscellaneous income, "as able" pledged giving

[B]: Pledged Benevolence Income, starting in 2026, no longer includes Food Pantry designated pledges which were included in 2025 (\$3500, see below)

	2025	2026	
Greater Messiah Fund	\$300	\$360	20%
Food Pantry	\$3,200	\$5,000	56%
Pledged Non-Operating Income	\$3,500	\$5,360	53%

Budget Breakdown

	<u>2025</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>%</u>
Benevolence	\$46,950	13%	\$45,120	13%
<i>Synod</i>	<i>\$37,350</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>\$36,220</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Local</i>	<i>\$9,600</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>\$8,900</i>	<i>2%</i>
Salaries & Benefits	\$225,317	61%	\$203,013	57%
Programs	\$17,600	5%	\$19,450	5%
Operations	\$78,633	21%	\$89,617	25%
Total	\$368,500		\$357,200	

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENERAL FUND
2026 Budget**

		2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Proposed 2026 Budget	2026 Budget vs. 2025 Budget	2026 Budget vs. 2025 Actual
Outreach Ministry						
Service	ELCA Synod Mission	\$ 36,850	\$ 36,850	\$ 35,720	-3%	-3%
Synod Benevolence	ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Relief	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0%	0%
Service	Other Benevolence	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,500	-3%	-3%
Local Benevolence	South Wedge Mission	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ -	-100%	-100%
	Support of Seminary Student	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	33%	100%
	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 400	\$ 395	\$ 400	0%	1%
Service Sub-Totals		\$ 46,950	\$ 46,695	\$ 45,120	-4%	-3%
Outreach	Hospitality	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,968	\$ 2,000	0%	2%
	Direct Marketing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	Fall Festival	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	Local Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000	67%	67%
	Outreach - Other	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0%	0%
	Stephen Ministry	\$ 100	\$ 56	\$ 600	500%	971%
Outreach Sub-Totals		\$ 5,600	\$ 5,024	\$ 8,100	45%	61%
Total Outreach Ministry		\$ 52,550	\$ 51,719	\$ 53,220	1%	3%
Worship & Music Ministry						
Music	Supply Organists & Soloists	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,725	\$ 1,500	-50%	-45%
	Other - Music	\$ 450	\$ 135	\$ 450	0%	233%
Worship	Communion & Altar Supplies	\$ 250	\$ 664	\$ 550	120%	-17%
	Copyright Licenses	\$ 1,000	\$ 757	\$ 1,900	90%	151%
	Worship - Other	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,883	\$ 300	-81%	-84%
Total Worship & Music Ministry		\$ 6,300	\$ 6,164	\$ 4,700	-25%	-24%
Youth and Family Ministry						
Youth and Family Ministry	Messiah Pride	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	0%	0%
	Sunday School	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 200	-50%	0%
	MAD Camp	\$ 500	\$ 253	\$ 300	-40%	19%
	Confirmation	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	0%	0%
	Scholarship (e.g. Confirmation Camp)	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 200	0%	0%
	Youth Gathering Fund	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	0%	0%
	Youth Formation - Other	\$ 100	\$ 33	\$ 100	0%	203%
Total Youth and Family Ministry		\$ 3,450	\$ 2,286	\$ 3,550	3%	55%
Adult Faith Formation Ministry						
Adult Faith Formation	Adult Ed. / Small Groups	\$ 250	\$ 116	\$ 200	-20%	72%
	Library	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	Subscriptions	\$ 400	\$ 594	\$ 500	25%	-16%
	Bereavement Program	\$ 300	\$ 178	\$ 200	-33%	12%
	Retreat/Conferences	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	0%	0%
	Lifelong Formation - Other	\$ -	\$ 52	\$ -	0%	-100%
Total Adult Faith Formation Ministry		\$ 950	\$ 940	\$ 1,400	47%	49%
Staff Compensation						
Ordained Staff	Salary	\$ 119,202	\$ 104,387	\$ 97,455	-18%	-7%
	Benefits	\$ 36,081	\$ 34,888	\$ 31,929	-12%	-8%
	Reimbursements	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,979	\$ 5,500	0%	85%
	Supply Pastor	\$ 825	\$ 749	\$ 2,000	142%	167%
Lay Staff	Salary	\$ 55,865	\$ 55,865	\$ 58,081	4%	4%
	Benefits	\$ 6,944	\$ 6,948	\$ 7,148	3%	3%
	Reimbursements	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ 900	0%	0%
Total Staff Compensation		\$ 225,317	\$ 205,816	\$ 203,013	-10%	-1%

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
GENERAL FUND
2026 Budget**

		2025 Budget	2025 Actual	Proposed 2026 Budget	2026 Budget vs. 2025 Budget	2026 Budget vs. 2025 Actual
Property Ministry						
Cleaning Services	Cleaning Services	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800	\$ 7,800	0%	0%
	Carpet Cleaning	\$ 2,100	\$ 1,510	\$ 2,400	14%	59%
	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 150	\$ 59	\$ 150	0%	154%
	Trash Pickup	\$ 1,772	\$ 1,422	\$ 1,600	-10%	13%
Cleaning Supplies Sub-Totals		\$ 11,822	\$ 10,791	\$ 11,950	1%	11%
Maintenance	Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$ 650	\$ 210	\$ 650	0%	210%
	Lawn Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 900	\$ 1,400	0%	56%
	Snow Removal	\$ 3,900	\$ 2,450	\$ 3,900	0%	59%
	Building / Ground Maintenance	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,784	\$ 8,827	-26%	-25%
	Kitchen Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	0%	0%
	Elevator	\$ 3,586	\$ 3,585	\$ 3,846	7%	7%
	Utilities	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,295	\$ 23,010	15%	3%
	West Fire (Fire & Safety Test/Inspection)	\$ 720	\$ 1,964	\$ 597	-17%	-70%
	Fire Exting'r Inspect/Back Flow Preventor	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,746	\$ 1,525	-15%	-13%
	Property - Other	\$ 500	\$ 182	\$ 9,855	1871%	5315%
Maintenance Sub-Totals		\$ 44,556	\$ 45,116	\$ 56,110	26%	24%
Total Property Ministry		\$ 56,378	\$ 55,907	\$ 68,060	21%	22%
Office Infrastructure						
Office	Postage	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,318	\$ 1,150	-23%	-13%
	Office Supplies	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,200	-29%	13%
General Supplies Sub-Totals		\$ 3,200	\$ 2,383	\$ 2,350	-27%	-1%
Office Equipment Maint.	Copier Maint. / Contracts	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,308	\$ 5,134	-7%	-3%
	Toner & Other Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	Office Equipment Maint. / Replacement	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ 25	0%	67%
	Phones	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	AV Equipment / Security System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
Office Equipment Maint./Replace Sub-Totals		\$ 5,500	\$ 5,323	\$ 5,159	-6%	-3%
Info Tech	Computer Support	\$ 600	\$ 455	\$ 600	0%	32%
	Website / E-Mail	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300	0%	0%
	Software	\$ 100	\$ 26	\$ 850	750%	3169%
Total Office Infrastructure		\$ 9,700	\$ 8,187	\$ 9,259	-5%	13%
Communications						
Communications	Communications	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 500	400%	0%
	Direct Mailings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
Total Communications		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 500	400%	0%
Finance						
Finance	Payroll	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%
	Taxes and Insurance	\$ 11,500	\$ 10,921	\$ 11,500	0%	5%
	Finance Charges	\$ -	\$ 201	\$ -	0%	-100%
Other	Meeting Expenses (e.g. Synod Assembly)	\$ 600	\$ 165	\$ 700	17%	324%
	Miscellaneous - Other	\$ 455	\$ (2)	\$ 98		
Total Finance		\$ 12,555	\$ 11,413	\$ 12,298	-2%	8%
Stewardship						
Stewardship	Stewardship Supplies	\$ 1,100	\$ 940	\$ 1,100	0%	17%
	Stewardship - Other	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	0%	0%
Total Stewardship		\$ 1,200	\$ 940	\$ 1,200	0%	28%
Grand Total		\$ 368,500	\$ 343,372	\$ 357,200	-3.1%	4.0%