Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
64th Annual Congregational Meeting – February 4, 2024
Called into community, gifted to serve.
Glorifying God through love in action.

Joanne Niemi started the Congregational meeting with general instructions because it was a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. Some members were on their phones and could participate through audio. The published Annual Report was available via email or hard copy. The revised financials dated 1/30/24 were available.

We went over logistics. If someone in person had a question, they would raise their hand and be passed a microphone. Members who were using Zoom could use the Chat Window. Andy Mitchell managed the remote questions and voting counts. In person voting was done by paper; remote voting was done via Chat Window. All confirmed members could vote.

Agenda
Opening Prayer
Approval of minutes: January 29, 2024 Annual Meeting
Pastors Report
Pastoral Assistant Repot
Music Ministry Report
Ministry Reports (written)
Council Elections
Synod Assembly Representatives Election
Endowment Fund Board Election and proposed fund change
2023 Financial Highlights
2024 Budget Approval
New Business
Closing Prayer

Pastor Aileen opened the Congregational in prayer.

Approval of Minutes – We approved Minutes from the January 29,2023 Congregational Meeting.

Pastor Aileen thanked Joanne Niemi, Janet Graves-Wright, and Shelly Knapp for their years of service on Church council.

Pastor Aileen directed people to read each of the Ministry Reports in the 64th Annual Congregational Meeting document.

Pastor's Report - Pastor discussed her work with the Synod; the church closings, and conflict resolution. The work is mostly via Zoom, with a small amount of travel. She asked if anyone had any questions regarding her new part time responsibilities at the Synod level. There were no questions.

Music Director - Willie LaFavor
Willie directed us to read his report, which included thanking many people for the participation in choir, song leaders, and everyone's support.

Ministry Reports – Written in the Congregation Annual Report.

Congregation Strategic Goals are also printed in the Annual Report. We need to work on any changes or additions in 2024/5.

Council Elections – Class of 2027
Jeff Gerstenberger as Council President and Breanna Dauphinee as Worship Ministry, Brad Roberts as Finance. These candidates were nominated and the vote was unanimous with 63 yes and 0 no votes.

Synod Assembly Representatives Election – Rhonda Eastman and Shelly Knap were nominated to represent Messiah at the 2024 Synod Assembly in Syracuse. The vote again was unanimous with 63 yes and 0 no votes.

Endowment Fund Board Election and proposed fund change – Jeff thanked the endowment fund team of Gary Cantelberry, Ellen Meyer, Brad Roberts, and Wayne Reabold. Jeff and Wayne were stepping down. Martha Littlejohn and Joanne Niemi were nominated and the vote was unanimous at 66 yes and 0 no votes.

The 2023 Board proposed some changes, the primary one was changing the formula for dispersal of funds. We had a discussion and questions were asked and answered. We needed 2/3 of the congregation to approve the proposed changes. The vote surpassed the requirement with a vote of 61 yes and 0 no.

2023 Financial Highlights

- Income was above plan by $14,759
- Expenses were below $4,297
    - Staff Expenses were below $5,965.
- Year End Surplus of $17,994
- Transferred $15,463 to the Carry Over Fund.

2024 Budget Approval

We reviewed the 2024 Budget details. The estimated income is $361,780 and the proposed budget is $361,780. There were discussions regarding a decline in giving and the disparity of funds spent internally rather than spending outside in the world. We are looking for suggestions. The council will work with Pastor Hans regarding increasing our external budget by 2%.

We discussed the food ministry and the funding pass through.

We discussed our rate of return on CD investments. A team will research this and move funds to achieve better interest. We voted to increase the rate; 61 members voted yes, 2 members voted no, and one abstained.

New Business – None

Joanne said it was an honor and a privilege to serve on council.

Closing Prayer – Joanne closed the meeting in prayer

Pastor Aileen said a closing blessing.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson