

Messiah Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 17, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mark at 10:55 AM.

Prayer and devotions:

Mark opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of May 18, 2025 were approved as written.

Financial Secretary's Report: (Jane Cochran not present):

A monthly giving report was attached. Mark reported that we are currently \$17,000 over budget for our estimated giving. March and June were higher than estimated due to some members giving on quarterly basis. This has started to be a trend.

Treasurer's Report (Josh Harman):

A Treasurer's report was attached. We rolled over a CD in July, 3.9% (\$25,000). We are on track to meet our budget income by the end of the year. We will start working on next year's budget in October.

Pastor's Report:

A State of the Church report was attached. Some highlights include:

- Upcoming Worship Message Series: "Come and See."
- Working on building a college ministry. Carol Schweickert is leading a team of adults sponsoring UNCW college students. Classes will begin August 18.
- We will honor First Station #7 for Patriot's Day on Sunday, September 7.
- Thank again for the gifts and support for his promotion to Colonel.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders (Bill Chase):

A detailed written report was attached. Some highlights include:

- Three new elders were selected by the congregation to serve two-year terms at the Annual Voters Meeting in May: Jennifer Baughman, Missy Rossin and Joe Ziemann. This brings our Elder Board total to nine members.
- The board meets times a year with Pastor Timothy to discuss new business and to stay abreast of the spiritual needs of all the members of the congregation. Each elder-care leader assists with spiritual and prayer needs of approximately ten to twelve families. They are available to provide off site holy communion.

Trustees (Rob Cochran not present):

Mark reported that the restrooms are nearly complete and they will be working on drainage around buildings. They are also looking at the HVAC units which will be assessed to determine whether they can be fixed or should be replaced.

Fellowship (Carol Ernst):

A reception was held following the Memorial Service for Ray Verdejo. Thanks for those who helped and attended. Attendance is growing at coffee hour and we are working on becoming more welcoming to guests. The annual craft and bake sale will be Saturday, November 15. We are looking for volunteers, helpers, crafters and bakers.

Guest Services (Pam Hammond):

We have had many guests who have remarked about how welcome they felt at Messiah. It was wonderful to welcome family and friends of the Niebuhr's for Augustus' baptism and guests for Sawyer Rose Smith's baptism. We also enjoyed guests of the Steele family for Pastor's Promotion Ceremony.

The usher team has been growing in the past few months. A special thanks to those who served during Memorial Services for Robin Fleming and Ray Verdejo. Thanks to Wendy Elliott for designing and putting together and Wendy Smith for printing the materials for our Father's Day compass gifts. We are putting together a Baby Blessing Basket for Auggie Niebuhr.

Old Business:

The Church Counsel reported that it is working on a strategic plan looking at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). If anyone has any thoughts or ideas please submit them to Mark or Jim. Updates will be shared at the November Congregational Meeting.

New Business:

There was discussion of the lack of the American Flag inside church. A motion was made to move the US Flag from its current location, in the church lobby, to the front of the sanctuary. A further motion was made to have the elders, who are responsible for assisting the pastor with worship services, to consider the options for moving the US flag into the sanctuary. A third motion was then made to further amend the first motion to also include the placement of a Christian flag in the sanctuary. These motions passed.

Adjournment:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Williamson