

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2025**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mark at 11:14 am.

Prayer and devotions:

Mark opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of August 17, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Secretary's Report: (Mark Elliott for Jane Cochran):

The Monthly Giving report was attached. We are currently \$43,468 over in our budgeted income. We expect to receive around \$290,000 in giving by the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report (Mark Elliott for Josh Harman):

Cash in checking and savings at the end of October was \$242,979. Total cash on hand is up \$36,000 from the beginning of the year. We now have 19 members giving electronically, up from 7. Money from electronic giving goes into our LCEF Fund (which earns interest).

We received some additions to our restricted funds of \$13,296. The restricted funds for the parking lot cameras of \$400 was moved to unrestricted funds, as we spent what we needed on that. We are working with the Youth Group on how they want to spend the remaining \$200 in their funds.

We moved approximately \$50,000 into our operating fund to have that money available to replace our HVAC system.

We have spent \$261,650 of our \$381,667 budget for a current savings of \$43,000. Our general operating income is about 14% higher than 2024.

Pastor's Report (not present but a report was provided):

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

- Advent Service (Not 30) where we will be lighting personal candles of hope, Cantata (Dec 21), Christmas Even Candlelight (Dec 24), Carols and Communion (Dec 28). Our Christmas ornaments designed and created by Wendy Elliott, are tailored to summarize "Light of the World" series.
- We celebrated \$14,999 being given to Good Shepherd Center through 'Be Rich'.
- Pingo Land will be sponsoring an event on Dec 7 for all kids to pack 200 snack packs to be delivered to Nourish NC.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders (Bill Chase):

At the last congregational meeting, there was a motion made to move the U.S. Flag from its current location, in the church lobby, to the front of the sanctuary. Per Roberts rules of order, when a committee gets a recommendation as part of the Elder's report, it will become a motion and already seconded. Once the motion is read the floor will be open for discussion, then we will vote on it with a majority ballot vote.

A report dated November 10 from the Elder Board to the church regarding the U.S. Flag Placement was provided. Harley Hammond summarized the report. Some key items were: the Elder's report included consultation with Pastor; they looked at the LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synods) recommendations; and asked the question "How does not having a flag in the sanctuary negatively impact leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ".

There was much discussion both for and against moving the flag. There was a call for the vote and a ballot vote was taken. The results were that 30 voted to keep the U.S. flag in the lobby and 9 voted to move it. The U.S. Flag will remain in its current location in the lobby.

Trustees (Rob Cochran):

Recent projects include:

- Bathroom vanities have been installed in the Fellowship Hall Bathrooms
- We tinted the windows in the Sanctuary
- We put a seal and coating and painted the pavement markings in the parking lot
- We cleaned the Sanctuary carpets

Thanks to:

- Messiah Mowers who completed another season of landscape maintenance
- Richard Hollembeak for planting trees to replace our dead trees
- Dave Wychel, Keith McKenzie, Dave Ernst, Cole Niebuhr & Harley Hammond for assisting with the Fellowship Hall Bathroom work
- Wendy Elliot and Jane Cochran for design consultation

Fellowship (Carol Ernst):

Friendsgiving was a great success with lots of good food. Thanks to Bill Chase, Harley and Pam Hamond for the photo booth and thanks to Rob Cochran for cooking the turkey. We just need to work out the timing of cooking vs eating.

The Craft fair was great and ran very smoothly although there was some confusion about what time we started. We had been calling it a Bazaar but renamed it so there isn't confusion with a business with the same name. Thanks to all the volunteers, we had some new ladies come and help. Thanks to Cecilia for providing coffee service and to Bruce for providing hot pizza. The fair raised \$778 for the Fellowship Hall refresh fund.

Guest Services (Pam Hammond):

Our Guest Services Team loves welcoming our first-time guests, but even more wonderful is welcoming those guests back for a second, third and more times! Messiah's mission is to bring others into a growing relationship with Jesus – and that calls for continued worship and fellowship. We thank Ted French for his ten years of faithful service as he retires from our Usher Team.

Thanks to:

- Bruce and Cecilia Rudd who gladly serve nearly every Sunday and special services
- Harley Hammond, Bruce & Cecilia Rudd, Win Donat, Missy Rossin and Wendy Elliott for serving at funeral services for Glorene Wychel, Rose Mebane and Nick Durdle
- Bill Chase for his photography skills for our Friendsgiving Photo Booth and Harley Hammond for setting up the background and holding it steady.

We presented a "Coastal Cowboy" Baby Blessing Basket to the Niebuhr family for Auggie, and a "Bear" Baby Blessing Basket to the Papach family for Benjamin. Thanks to Wendy Elliott and Wendy Smith for their help.

The 2025 Christmas ornament is underway. Thanks to Pastor Timothy and Wendy Elliott for their suggestions and work designing another beautiful ornament that reflects our Christmas message! I can't wait for you to see it!

Old Business:

There was no Old Business

New Business:

2026 Budget:

Thanks to Josh Harman and Wendy Smith for all their work on putting together the budget.

Some notes on the budget:

- We are projecting \$342,450 in income (\$313,000 in general giving) which is 14% higher than what we budgeted for in 2025.
- We increased local community outreach budget from \$8,000 (2025) to \$19,000.
- We are now showing the details of Personnel expenses.
- Pastors salary has been below the recommended guidance, so between last year and this year we are trying to get him in line with the district standards. This year we are budgeting for a 10% increase.
- Ivey is being given a 3% increase (keeping in line with inflation) and Wendy 5% increase for inflation and merit.
- The largest expense budgeted is for the replacement of the HVAC for sanctuary. They are 26 years old and getting close to the end of their life. We are going to go ahead and replace them

instead of waiting for them to fail. Will do both at the same time (as we have to rent a crane and don't want to pay for that twice).

- We are increasing Office IT expenses for web hosting and software.
- Community groups number should be \$1,000 not \$9,000 (this change will not affect the total expenses number). The motion will reflect this typo.
- We added a new line item for Stewardship to capture any additional opportunities that might come up.
- We have budgeted \$20,000 for drainage work for the Fellowship Hall.
- Maintenance is pretty much the same except for money budgeted to replace the HVAC units.
- Assets are \$592,548, expenses are \$420,812
- We will still have \$171,737 plus \$82,000 which is money in reserve (3 months expenses) in case something happens (hurricane, fire, etc.)

A motion was made to accept the budget as amended with the change in community groups from \$9,000 to \$1,000. Motion was seconded and approved.

There was a recommendation from the Trustees to not make paper copies of the budget in the future but show the information on a screen (and/or email copies of the budget).

Adjournment:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mebane