Messiah Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 16, 2026

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of the May 17, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Reports (Lisa Little):
The Church was very generous with its giving in June and July which has helped us exceed our budgeted amount. The 'Give a Pan' raised $2,240 for the Good Shepherd Center.

Treasurer's Reports (Kevin Wichman):
Thanks to the congregation for their faith through our giving.

General offering giving through July 31 was $191,830 up $28,865 over 2025 (18%). Total revenue through July 31 was $219,805 which includes the $20,800 from our cell tower income. Year to date expenses are $229,221 which includes the budgeted HVAC replacement.

Cash balances as of July 31 in checking and savings are $209,871: Truist operating account $51,457, LCEF Money Market $89,517 and Truist Money Market $68,897. We have $32,331 in restricted fund ($30,267) for the Fellowship Hall) and $177,540 in unrestricted funds.

Pastor's Report:
Scoops from Groups will resume next Sunday. We are endearing our Community through our Be Rich campaign which will start October 5th. We have four new families joining our church: Mark and Kim Mitchell, Joe and Lou Ann Mayfield, and Jill Johnston.

In September, we will roll out the revamping our children and student environments. Our adult environments include our Sunday morning classes and our midweek class. We will be adding a new care ministry on grief that Jennifer Baughman will be starring in November/December.

We collected 78 pots and pan sets were given to Good Shepard. Our Endearment Team helps determine who we gift our money to. We allocate 50% for Local charities (New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties), 25% to National charities and 25% to International Charities. The team make sure to vet the organizations for financial transparency and makes recommendations to the church council. Once the gifting is done, they team reports back to the congregation with the impact story about how our gifting was used.

Board/Committee Reports:

Elders (Harley Hammond):

Bill Chase, Mari French, Karen Spike and Matt Papach were approved by the congregation in the May Voters Meeting to serve another 2-year term as Elders.

The Elders reworked their Zone assignments to help increase their support to members and added the new members from the Core class that Pastor held plus they look to add any individuals that are attending regularly and waiting for the next Core Class. They are also working on improving our prayer list process and increasing the prayer ministry in the church. They are reviewing the four main duties of an Elder (leader, shepherd, teacher, equipper) and looking for possible improvements but shepherding remains the main focus.

They are also supporting the Constitution and Bylaw update effort.

Due to family and job commitments Joe Ziermann needs to step down as an Elder but AJ Vitt is considering coming back on the board and Mark Elliott has approved this. They are looking to add four people to the list so there will be changes in who your Elder is.

Trustees (Rob Cochran):
Completed items include: New Sanctuary HVAC East Unit Failure fixed (handled under our warranty series); Storm Water Management System Drain Outlet Compliance; looking at office HVAC and Fellowship Hall HVAC (FH HVAC will need to be replaced and will be in next year's budget); and pressure washing of concrete surfaces and white exterior Trim of buildings was completed in July .

Continuing tasks include: Analysis of utility cost (data was corrupted by HVAC DIP Switch); Plan Fellowship Hall East Wall Landscape bed drainage project which will then allow next phase of Fellowship Hall refresh; and , plan refresh/refinish of Sanctuary East Pews.

They are always looking for additional volunteers for Messiah mowers and work doing landscape maintenance, drainage project help and electrical and plumbing work.

Fellowship (Carol Ernst):
Carol thanked everyone for their support during her recuperation. She will need someone to take over the Craft and Bake sale that is held in the fall. Thank you to everyone who provides food for the Coffee and Convo and thanks to Cecilia for all that she always does.

Guest Services (Pam Hammond):
Thanks to our Guest Services team and our guest pastors.

Leslie Aschemeier and Gigi Taylor joined the Connections Team. The team met on June 7th and the theme was "Serving with a Heart Like Jesus". They reviewed and discussed our responsibility and procedures for emergency situations. A big thanks to Wendy Elliott for the fun "All-Star Dad" treat for

Father's Day and to Owen and Evan Bliese for helping hand them out. There were extra bags so we could share them.

Several members of the team attended AED (Automated External Defibrillator) training arranged by Mark Elliott on Monday, July 20th with Karen Limback's son-in-law .

Old Business:

Bylaws Review Group:
Our Bylaws are twenty-five years so a group was set up to review them and offer any recommendations on changes.

The group (Burma Chase, Jennifer Ciccone, Harley Hammond, Jim Irgens, Todd Limback and Michael Menke) have met seven times since last October and have another meeting scheduled. Their next step is to send any recommendations regarding specific individuals or committees/group to those individuals for review before any recommended changes are offered to the congregation.

New Business:
The choir is starting up again on September 9th, practice will be on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

A request for volunteers to help with cleaning was made as this is mostly being done by Bruce and Cecilia Rudd.

Adjournment:
Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 am.

The meeting ended with the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" led by Mari French and Gigi Taylor

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mebane