

**Messiah Lutheran Church  
Voter's Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, February 15, 2026**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:57 am.

**Approval of Minutes from November 23, 2025**

The minutes were approved with the correction of a minor typo.

**Financial Reports (Mark Elliott for Jane Cochran):**

Our giving in January was \$19,387 which was \$6,696 less than our budgeted monthly budget needs of \$26,083 but higher than our January 2025 giving of \$17,908. January and February are usually slower months for giving. It was noted that if you are giving for a special purpose, please put your name and what the giving is for on the giving envelope.

**Treasurer's Reports (Mark for Josh Harman):**

Cash at the beginning of 2025 totaled \$207,000 and ended the year at \$219,000 while the budget projected to end the year with only \$36,000 in cash. For 2025, we had \$361,000 in total income less \$349,000 in expense results in net income of \$12,000. This compares to 2024 where we had \$334,000 in total income less \$323,000 in expense resulted in a net income of \$11,000. Actual income for 2025 is \$72,000 higher than budget and expense is \$111,000 lower than budget, leaving the bottom line \$183,000 better than budget.

We had capital improvements in 2025 that will continue in 2026 (Fellowship Hall Refresh). We now have an Endearment Team that is providing counsel for our Stewardship giving.

We had quite a bit of expense in January/February mainly in replacing our HVAC unit (\$46,000) in the Sanctuary. We were very fortunate that we were able to quickly replace the unit that went out. We also paid our Wind and Hail insurance for the year (instead of paying it quarterly). We transferred money from our LCEF account to cover these expenses.

**Pastor's Report (Mark for Pastor):**

Our Lenten services will run February 18 through March 25 and be held from 7:00 – 7:30 pm.

Our new series for February/March will be "Why did Jesus live as one of us before he died for us?" and in April/May will be "How do you pick up the pieces and begin again once it all has fallen apart."

Walther Christian Academy will be providing a concert on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We need help in planning and coordinating a potluck dinner and need families to providing overnight housing for the students.

Our New Member Orientation has been renamed Core Orientation. We will be scheduling one in the spring and we currently have five new families.

**Board/Committee Reports:**

**Elders (Bill Chase):**

In 2025 the Elder Board decided to add regularly attending non-members to our Care Group lists. In 2026 the board changed from meeting quarterly to three times a year.

Bill and Burma Chase will be coordinating the Walther Christian Academy visit.

**Trustees (Rob Cochran):**

The Fellowship Hall Bathroom refresh is complete. Richard has been doing some landscaping work in the winter months, Keith did some fixing of holes and Dave Ernst help build the HVAC deck.

**Fellowship (Carol Ernst):**

The Chili cookoff will be February 22. We have 10 contestants signed up and we still need people to sign up for sides/toppings. We also need volunteers to scoop chili, clean up and be a photographer.

The yard sale will be March 14 from 8:00 am – Noon. There is a signup sheet for volunteers. Any unsold items will be donated to Cape Fear Rescue Mission.

**Guest Services (Pam Hammond not in attendance):**

No report was given.

**Old Business:**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**New Business:**

There are two birthday cards for Pastor Mark for anyone who would like to sign them.

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Mebane