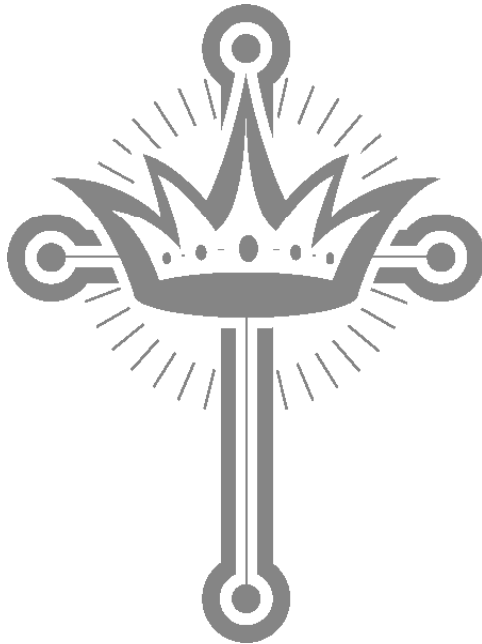


MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

Our Mission Statement

*Messiah is a welcoming and caring family of God
centered in the Good News of Jesus.*

*Our mission is to educate, equip, and energize believers
to serve as disciples.*

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Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting January 24, 2010

- I Call to order
- II Invocation
- III Assurance of a Quorum
- IV Approval of Agenda
- V Report of Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meetings
- VI Reports
 - A. President Penny Kaye
 - B. Pastor May
 - C. John Renfroe, A.I.M.
 - D. Treasurer Betty Donlan
 - E. Financial Secretary Judy Lindsten
 - F. Kid's Connection Director Carmen Orozco
 - G. Committees
- VII Old Business
 - Report on Constitutional Review Task Force by Eddie Allison
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Recognize and de-activate the 2009 Nominating Committee
 - B. Adoption of 2010 Budget
 - C. Election of Endowment Fund Committee members
- IX Audit Committee Report
- X Recognition of Thrivent Congregation Representatives
 - PJ May
 - Margaret Hiestand
 - Jack Schleich
- XI Gifts to Outgoing Council Members
- XII Appointment of Nominating Committee
- XIII Other Business (and Open Forum as time allows)
- XIV Benediction
- XV Adjournment

Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting

January 25, 2009

- I. President Penny Kaye called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM
- II Pastor Rusty May led us in prayer. The congregation then sang *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*.
- III President Kaye established that we had 94 members present, satisfying the required quorum.
- IV Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Bob Massey, seconded by Eddie Allison and approved that we accept the agenda.
- V Approval of minutes: The minutes of the 2008 Congregational Meeting were approved by the council.
- VI Reports:
 - A. Pastor May presented a written report and commented on the *Glorias* and the *Kyries* of the past year and the Hopes of the coming year.
 - B. AIM John Renfroe presented a written report and made a few comments.
 - C. Past President, David Samuel, presented a written report and added expressions of thanks to the congregation.
 - D. Financial Secretary, Judy Lindsten, presented a written report.
 - E. Kid's Connection: Carmen Orozco reported on the submitted report and also answered questions on the Day Care operations.
 - F. Other committee reports are included in the Congregational Report.
- VII Old Business
 - A. The Constitutional Review Task Force has not been active.
- VIII New Business
 - A. The 2008 Nominating Committee, consisting of Don Gronewald, Nelson Baker, Fran Brockman, David Samuel and Shirley Egleston was recognized and deactivated.
 - B. Larry Engle, Finance Committee Chairman, presented the 2009 Budget.
 - C. Adoption of Budget. Moved by Shirley Egleston, seconded and approved.
 - D. Kid's Connection Budget. Moved by Bev Krueger, seconded by Mary Ann Breski and approved.
- IX Audit Committee Report

John Reese, chairman, presented his committee: Larry and Charlotte Engle, George Brockman, Rod Felix, Charlie Ann Curtis and Marge Scherer.

- X Gifts of stained glass crosses were presented to outgoing council members, Dave Samuel, Rick Sherman, Marge Drager, and Shirley Egleston. Pat Borutski was absent.
- XI Appointment of Nominating Committee: Jean Hauser, chairperson, Marge Drager, Emmet Skreen, Jim Minich and Bill Mosgrove.
- XII Benediction
- XIII Adjournment. Moved by Eddie Allison, seconded by CharlieAnn Curtis and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM .

Submitted by Claudia Weiss, Secretary

Minutes of Election of Officers Meeting

Sunday, December 13, 2009

- I The meeting was called to order at 9:35 PM by President Penny Kaye. Pastor led us in prayer.
- II A quorum was established with 61 members in attendance.
- III Bev Krueger, Outreach chairperson, introduced the new members' class.
- IV The president offered the following names for membership in the 2010 Nominating Committee: LaVerne Graham, Barbara Johnson, Judy Lindsten, Bob Reider, Scott Van Baaren, Chair
- V Mary Ann Breski moved, Dave Samuel seconded that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees.
- VI The 2009 Nominating Committee presented the following candidates for council positions:
 - Secretary—Claudia Weiss
 - Finance Secretary—Colleen Biggs
 - Youth—no candidate
 - Property—Larry Wilcoxson
 - Worship and Music—Mary Ann Breski
- VII John Renfroe nominated Kathy Johnson for Christian Education. Seconded by Jean Hauser.
- VIII Dave Samuel moved, seconded by Shirley Egleston that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Motion accepted.
- IX President Penny announced the appointment by council of Dianne Dircz to finish the term of CharlieAnn Curtis for the Position of Social Concerns.
- X It was moved by Dick Weiss, seconded by Lois Rezner and approved that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Submitted by Claudia Weiss, Secretary

Report of the Pastor

Again this year I want to review the previous year by giving thanks for “glorias” that were a part of our mission and raising concerns over “kyries”. I’ll start with the “glorias”:

Glorias

Christ is Lord: Our Lord is faithful to us. At a Council retreat early in 2009 we were studying the story of Jesus stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee. One of the important points we took away from that study is that we are not alone in the boat... Jesus is in the boat with us. As we try to navigate our way in developing new energy and challenging goals for the future Jesus is with us and will send the Holy Spirit to inspire us and lead us.

Leadership: I give thanks for the people who served on our Church Council this past year. The Council has wrestled with some significant issues this past year and they approach their responsibilities with conviction. Even though the Council has experienced a lot of turnover in membership in the last couple of years, there is a strong sense of unity among them. We have been very well served by our officers this year. Council President Penny Kaye’s optimism and can-do spirit is contagious and her efforts at opening up opportunities for members of the congregation to be in conversation with her during her “open door” meetings says a lot about Penny’s collaborative leadership style. She wants all of you to feel like your voices are important to her and that you are leaders too.

Worship is engaging: I get to look at YOU during worship...and often I see a congregation that is spirited in worship. You exhibit joy, you are involved as worship participants, you bring an energy to worship that expresses the power of the Holy Spirit in you. And in so doing you establish an atmosphere where visitors are enfolded into that worshipful spirit...and I as a worship leader feed off your energy too. Thank you.

Renovations: Last year the need to do some renovations was listed as one of my kyries. Larry and Sandy Wilcoxson and the redecoration task force did a wonderful job of updating our Fellowship Hall, office area, and restrooms in our main building and replacing the carpet in the Family Center.

We have very good insurance: When a bolt of lightning struck the tree next to the well house, it did a LOT of damage. The damage that most impacted our life together was the total loss of the organ. In addition, the Kid’s Connection security camera system was also significantly damaged as was some of the electrical equipment and pumps for the well. We are grateful for the efforts of the insurance company to settle our claim.

The multiplication of the loaves: you are generous when you are made aware of specific needs and God multiplies your gifts for the blessing of many. Examples include the ministries funded by the Barnabas Jar...this last year your coins and currency added up to \$1,999.57. In 2009 those monies were distributed to Kairos Inside & Kairos Outside (a local prison ministry program), our Boy Scout Troop, Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida (Immokalee), and Lutheran Southern Seminary. One of the most low key appeals we have is for our food pantry. In 2009 Messiah distributed \$5,850 of your giving to over a dozen area agencies that make food available to the needy. This

is all 2nd mile giving...money you give above and beyond what's in your offering envelope. You touch hundreds of lives through these gifts. Thank you.

New things: Shawl ministry, the Messiah Motet singers, the hymn-selection team that collaborates with John to choose the hymns for worship, new fellowship events, becoming "greener" with the help of our new Green Team that is helping us explore ways to be good to God's environment, putting the *Discovery* in electronic format.

The Staff I work with: They assist both you and me in carrying out the work God calls us to do...and they do it with a smile and faithfully.

Kyries

We need to grow in God's Word: This last year we lost a very valuable part of our Adult Education Program. Sharon Riess who taught a Sunday morning Bible study and her husband John are now worshiping elsewhere. We need to find someone to convene that class again to provide those who attended with another significant opportunity to study together. And even with adding a Tuesday evening study group, it is still a very small minority of our congregation who is engaged in lifelong Christian education here at Messiah. **I am convinced that we will not grow as a congregation until we grow in God's Word.** And by growth I'm NOT referring primarily to numbers; but in faithfulness to what God is calling us to do and be as a church. This is our biggest failing as a congregation...we do not study the Word enough.

Still kyries: These are concerns I have raised before in hopes of inspiring a change of behavior, commitment, etc. where little has changed or gotten worse:

Less than half of our members turn in time and talent forms or financial commitment forms. Ministry is fueled by resources...human and financial. True believers are eager to be public witnesses.

We lose too much momentum in the off season by adopting a "vacation" attitude.

More significantly...there is an underlying attitude at Messiah that members only want to be involved in attending worship. That is really saying, "I want to be ministered to instead of doing ministry." It's the attitude that "I only care that the congregation is here long enough to take care of me." Such a congregation lacks even the passion and effort of a congregation that's struggling to survive. In struggling congregations people do whatever it takes. People who join congregations that are struggling know from the beginning that they will need to lend a hand. The role of the pastor in a congregation that just wants to be taken care of is that of a chaplain...lead worship, visit the sick and homebound, and bury the dead. Very few pastors will be content being just a chaplain for long.

Godspeed and rest in peace: We said farewell to many of our members who moved away, joined the church triumphant, or simply moved away from Messiah. We are diminished as a congregation by their absence. (In addition there were some seasonal people who were unable to return to North Fort Myers this season for health reasons.) We give thanks to God for their witness among us when they were here.

In addition to the items listed above, I simply want to outline some hopes I have for 2010.

Capital Fund Appeal: The Council has been discussing conducting a feasibility study to

measure the potential for a successful major capital fund appeal. Typically, a congregation may run a campaign for 3 years to raise significant funds to provide financial resources for very specific purposes. The possibilities discussed by the Council have included:

To replenish/augment the monies we have set aside for major property repairs.

To have funds available to tap into water and sewer lines when we need to do that.

Establish an endowment fund where the principle would be protected and the annual income would be used to augment general fund income.

Parish Nurse: We need to recruit someone to serve as a parish nurse. Jane Menges had served that function for a short period of time prior to their moving to Ohio permanently. I know from past experience how valuable a parish nurse can be in developing programming and overseeing/providing care for congregational members.

Finish the review of our constitution...and make specific recommendations (if warranted) to the Council and congregation about our operating structure. We also simply need to make amendments to bring our constitution in line with the model constitution for ELCA congregations.

Lee County Interfaith Sponsoring Committee: You will see that there is money in the budget (under benevolences) to be a participating congregation in this ecumenical, justice oriented, organization. The name of the organization is wordy and in descript; but it is only a temporary name until this coalition of congregations is fully organized. The mission of the organization is to enable faith based communities to band together to explore important issues of justice in the local community that have potential for being redressed and leveraging the change needed. As a congregation we are wonderful at doing mercy (Food Pantry, Barnabas Jar, angel tree, etc.). Justice deals with uncovering systems that lead to the need for mercy and changing the system. There are a number of similar faith based coalitions in Florida which have accomplished incredible things. I will have a handout at the annual meeting for you to look at. My hope is that we can recruit some members of Messiah with an interest in justice issues to be a core group to be involved in the organization and to serve as mentors to the rest of the congregation. Eventually, as a member congregation we would be actively engaged with the larger organization in identifying an issue to address and the necessary research, planning, and strategy to implement the change.

Finally, on a more personal note: I simply want to thank the people of Messiah one more time for supporting my use of sabbatical time in particular but, just as importantly, simply offering support to me and PJ as your pastoral family in so many ways throughout the year. Your love and care was especially evident following our shortened trip to Italy/ Greece and your concern for PJ during her recovery from her broken leg. Thank you for being such a blessing in our lives.

In Christ,

Necrology 2009

Fred Botterbusch	March 24, 1928	—	Oct. 28, 2009
Gordon Bullene	March 17, 1926	—	Jan. 2, 2009
CharlieAnn Curtis	Feb. 8, 1945	—	Sept. 22, 2009
Leonard Hanna	March 19, 1927	—	Aug. 23, 2009
Dottie Inman	April 16, 1932	—	May 14, 2009
Alan Lever	July 9, 1947	—	Feb. 5, 2009
Ken Miller	<i>Unknown</i>	—	Jan. 28, 2009
Gerhard Nordin	Sept. 21, 1924	—	Nov. 17, 2009
Calvin Peterson	March 4, 1926	—	July 5, 2009
Rodger Pfeil	<i>Unknown</i>	—	Aug. 25, 2009
Louise Pierce	Jan. 22, 1909	—	Nov. 29, 2009
Thelma Popp	Nov. 2, 1932	—	Nov. 19, 2009
Frieda Postma	May 23, 1915	—	Nov. 19, 2009
Nicholas Reciniello	March 10, 1925	—	July 25, 2009
Doris Schmit	June 18, 1926	—	Oct. 20, 2009
William Shuff	Nov. 8, 1925	—	Oct. 13, 2009
Ruth Stave	Aug. 11, 1927	—	July 5, 2009
Robert Weider	April 7, 1931	—	Sept. 14, 2009
Marion Wherry	Dec. 29, 1915	—	Jan. 4, 2009

Report of the Associate in Ministry

The call that Messiah Lutheran Church Congregation issued me in this setting as an Associate in Ministry, (AIM), covers the areas of the Choir Ministries, Music Director and Organist, coordinator of the Fine Arts Concert Series, Christian Education and youth ministries, along with the visitation ministries and the newly formed hymn selection committee. There are also administrative responsibilities associated with each of these areas. My annual report will reflect my work as an AIM at Messiah Lutheran Church from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. I am thankful for the opportunities to serve God in this setting at Messiah Lutheran Church, as we work together engaging disciples in mission! It is also my privilege to report to you how God used me to support the various ministries to which I have been called in this setting, and I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such a marvelous staff here at Messiah Lutheran Church. Many thanks go to Pastor Rusty, Judy King, Helen Gierke, Marie Lowe, Ray Miller, and John Scinaldi for their wonderful support. I can honestly say that I have never been associated with a better staff!

Choir Ministries

Last year, the Chancel Choir had 34 rehearsals and led the liturgy at 43 worship services. In addition to leading our liturgy on Sunday mornings, they also participated in the Spring Concert on April 5th 2009 as they sang portions of Handel's *Messiah*. The Camerata String Orchestra from Cypress Lake High School for the Arts also joined us in this concert. On December 20th 2009, the Chancel Choir participated with the music ministry programs with the Fine Arts Series Christmas program, *O Come, Emmanuel*. As I reflect on the work the Chancel Choir did in 2009, I am proud of the many choral accomplishments made last year specifically in the area of vocal production in matching vowel sounds in a choral ensemble setting. This improvement makes it easier for the congregation to understand the words that the choirs sing. As with any vocal ensemble, this is an ongoing project. However, I deeply appreciate all the many hours of dedication and hard work as they offered their talents to God in leading us in our liturgies! I would also like to, once again, take this opportunity to personally thank LaVerne Graham and Larry Engle for their work as music librarians. (They are life savers!) However, it wasn't all work and no play as the Chancel Choir managed to squeeze in time for a couple of choir parties last year. Messiah Lutheran Church is indeed fortunate to have such a talented group of singers.

For the first part of last year, the Messiah Quartet had 12 rehearsals, led the liturgy at 6 services, and sang in the spring concert last year. Last fall, several members of the quartet told me that they thought that the time for the quartet to "retire" had come for this group. On November 8, 2009 Pastor Rusty and I made a presentation to the quartet thanking them for their many years of service and dedication to the music ministries at Messiah Lutheran Church. I was glad to be a part of their long ministries. Jim Slater, George Brockman, Mickey Schupp and Judy Steele, thank you once again for your work in sharing your musical talents. It was a pleasure working with you in this setting!

The Sunshine choir is a group of volunteers that is a part of the early service congregation that meets at 7:15 AM on the first two Sundays of the month. We rehearse easy hymns to be sung as a part of the early morning liturgy. This choir was formed out of a need to provide musical leadership to more of our Sunday morning services. Last year they led the liturgy at 35 worship services. Additionally, they sang during *all* of the summer

worship services.

The newly formed Messiah Motet Ensemble held their first rehearsal on Friday, January 16th, 2009. Since their formation, Messiah Motet Ensemble led the liturgy in 10 worship services. Additionally, the Motet led *all* of the music during our first ever Easter Vigil. All of the music at this high holy liturgy was sung without accompaniment. This Vigil was a high point of all of last year's worship services! The Messiah Motet Ensemble also participated in the spring and Christmas concerts, last year. The Messiah Motet also joined Helen Gierke's choir at the First Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon, November 22nd in an all Bach Concert. I am truly impressed with their high level of motivation as they rehearse countless hours in order to perfect their musical skills as they witness to the glory of God in song!

Part of my call and responsibilities at Messiah Lutheran Church is to oversee the handbell choir. You might recall that with the approval of the worship and music committee, along with the church council, I brought Judy King on staff to lead and develop the handbell choirs back in 2005. In these past five years, Judy has developed one of the top handbell programs in the area. Last year under her direction, the handbell choir led our liturgy in 11 worship services. In addition to their participation in the spring and Christmas concerts, the handbell choir offered a Christmas concert at the Coral Trace Nursing Facility on December 10, 2009. In February 20 & 21, 2009, the handbell choir represented Messiah Lutheran Church at the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. Once again this past summer, Judy held rehearsals during most of this time in order to begin preparations for the fall. As a result of the AGER event and the extra rehearsals, the handbell choir continued to experience serious musical growth this past year. Thank you to Judy and to all of the ringers for their many hours of dedication.

The Kids Connection pre-school class along with our Sunday school children presented their Christmas play on December 20, 2009. We meet weekly on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM for music class. This class consists of about twenty-one children. During this time we learn fun new songs and we also learn about the joy of music making.

Director of Music/Organist

As Director of Music and Organist, last year was a very busy and exciting one for me. From January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, I led the Chancel Choir, Messiah Quartet, the Sunshine Choir, and the newly formed Messiah Motet Ensemble, along with the Kid's Connection class with a combined 99 rehearsals. Additionally, I rehearsed 40 soloists, 14 instrumental rehearsals, and attended 26 handbell choir rehearsals.

As organist, I practiced and prepared service music and accompanied the liturgy for 121 Saturday and Sunday Morning services. I also led the liturgy for 10 Lenten services, 2 Maundy Thursday services, 2 Good Friday services, 1 Easter Vigil Service, 1 Sunrise Service, 1 Thanksgiving Eve service, 6 advent services, 2 Christmas Eve services, and 1 Christmas day service, and was organist for 9 memorial services.

The Organ

On Wednesday afternoon, August 5, 2009, Messiah Lutheran Church sustained a major lightning strike to its water well shed. A large electrical energy traveled from the circuit breaker box inside the shed to the circuit breaker box by the conference meeting room near the church nave. This electrical surge had a direct effect on the water well system, the security system, and the church organ. On September 22, 2009, I received a

second opinion confirming that our church organ suffered a catastrophic power surge, and that was not recommended, feasible, or cost effective to repair this instrument.

From September through October 2009, with the approval of the church council, I carefully researched options for an organ repair/replacement working closely with *Wheeler, Defusco & Associates*, our insurance company, and in cooperation with Mr. Mike Weller, our church insurance adjuster. On October 20, 2009, the church council voted to approve my recommendation to replace our damaged organ with a new Johannus Rembrandt 397 SE. The total cost, (\$53,360.00), for this new instrument would be paid in full, (minus the \$5,000.00 deductible which also covers all of the other damages), through the church's insurance policy. The church council also approved the installation of power surge protectors on all speaker and electrical cables to the new organ, in order to better protect this expensive investment from future electrical surges. The cost of the in-line surge protectors, (\$1,307.00), is not covered by our insurance policy. A complete and detailed report on this research project is available for reading, and it is on file in the church office.

Fine Arts Concert Series

Last year, the Fine Arts Concert Series celebrated its 18th consecutive season with wonderful musical inspiration and culture to the Messiah Congregation and the surrounding community.

Our concert series had a high quality musical lineup. On January 10, 2009 the Kings' Brass presented hymn classics with a contemporary flair as they led us in an inspirational concert. Last February, Ken Medema made his premier appearance at Messiah Lutheran Church offering us his great gifts of improvisational skills as his music bore witness to his faith. Though blind from birth, Ken has demonstrated his extraordinary musical vision to a growing number of loyal fans across the nation and around the world. We were indeed fortunate to have him as a part of our Fine Arts Series. On Sunday, March 1, 2009 the Bethune Cookman University Choir presented an afternoon of choral excellence featuring a variety of musical styles. On April 5, 2009, the fine arts series celebrated Palm Sunday as the Chancel Choir, along with the Camerata String Orchestra from Cypress Lake High School for the Arts, presented portions of Parts II & III of *Messiah* by G.F. Handel. The Messiah Quartet, the Motet Ensemble and the Handbell choir also participated in this special Palm Sunday concert. On Sunday, November 8, 2009, the Gulf Coast Symphony made their premier performance appearance at our church as they presented a special Young People's Concert. Even though there was not a large crowd in attendance, I was impressed with the number of young families with children who were gathered for this wonderful event. At the beginning of the concert when I asked how many children had never heard a symphony orchestra perform, *five* young hands went up. (There were also several adults who had not ever heard a "live" symphony orchestra. I was touched that Messiah Lutheran Church was the setting for this marvelous event! On Sunday, December 20, 2009 the Messiah Chancel Choir, along with the Handbell Choir, the Motet Ensemble, and a chamber instrumental ensemble, presented a variety of Advent and Christmas music as they helped to bring in the festive Christmas Season.

For the second year in a row, the Fine Arts Concert Committee began taking ticket donations to help defray the cost of the concerts featuring guest artists. The committee decided that we would ask for a \$15 donation at the door. We also offered a discount for advance ticket packets. As a result of the additional donations, the Fine Arts Concert Series was able to cover the cost for the guest artists. Additionally, the committee hosted a formal reception at the welcome center located in the Palm Island Center on November

28th in order to thank all benefactors who gave \$75 or more in support of the Fine Arts Concert Series. As the committee coordinator, I know that I speak for everyone on the committee in expressing my thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church and to the community for your support in this important ministry as we use this unique opportunity to make public witness of God's love through the language of music. Many thanks to the committee: Barbara and Frank Johnson, Scott Van Baaren, Claudia Weiss, Joyce Goers, P.J. May, and Dave Samuel.

In addition to a very active concert season, the Fine Arts Concert Series introduced to the community its fifth year of the *Exploring Worship Series*. Using different styles of music, we introduced to the community once again varied styles of liturgical formats. These styles included a Dixieland Jazz service led by the Barbary Coast, a "Beatles" style liturgy, Gospel, folk and contemporary worship services.

Christian Education

The areas of responsibilities of the Christian Education ministries that I oversee are with the Children, Youth, and with the Clown Ministry Troupe.

Presently, there are up to four children enrolled in the Sunday school program and six youth enrolled in Pastor Rusty's confirmation class. My thanks go to Colleen Biggs for teaching on Sunday mornings.

The Educational Outreach program of Gulf Coast Symphony in cooperation with the Kid's Connection and the Christian Education Committee at Messiah laid the groundwork for an augmented music program with the students of Kid's Connection last year.

There were several setbacks that prevented this program from starting last fall, as originally planned. The Educational Outreach program of Gulf Coast Symphony was originally scheduled to begin their music program with the students of Kid's Connection on October 22nd. Even though Maestro Kurtz, director of the Gulf Coast Symphony, continued to search for qualified applicants, there were several issues that held us back. Because of the nature of the federal grants that the symphony received, any of the teachers that they brought on staff must be State certified to teach in a public school setting in addition to passing FDLE *and* FBI background screens. (This requirement is also in step with Messiah Lutheran Church's policies involving any adult working with students under 18 years old.) Maestro Kurtz was also under the impression that it would be easy to find one of the music teachers from the Lee County School System who were laid off as a result of the school board's decision to cut funding for the arts in Lee County schools. Many of those teachers, however, moved out area, and/or obtained full-time employment in other career settings. Even though I am disappointed that this program did not take off last fall like I had hoped, I am excited to report that these music classes actually began this year, (2010), and I am also glad to report that the Gulf Coast Symphony has actually hired a music teacher to teach weekly music classes at Kid's Connection, and her name is Ms. Betsy Randolph. There will be much more to report on this wonderful outreach program next year.

From July 20th through the 24th Messiah Lutheran Church hosted a Vacation Bible School for the Kid's Connection. The theme for this year was *Telling God's Story*. Many thanks for the help from all of the volunteers, and to the staff of Kid's Connection, and to Carmon and her staff for all their help and support.

Rally Day for this year's Christian Educational ministries was held on Sunday, September 13, 2009, after the 9:30 worship service. Many thanks go to Louise Teeter and Barbara Johnson for their help in preparing the rally day festivities.

The children from the Kid's Connection presented a Christmas play called *I Am...* written by C.R. Scheidies which I adapted to fit our setting. The children offered this program to us on Sunday, December 20th at the 11:00 AM service.

Youth and Clown Ministries

Last year, I attended 11 Clown Ministry rehearsals and 7 youth functions. In addition to the clown ministry activities, I worked with Chris Seeke in developing several Bible studies for the youth, and I attended several of the youth functions including pool parties, bowling parties, in addition to miniature golfing, and bumper boat rides at the Shell Factory. (The parties were hard work....) For a complete report on the work of the Youth and Clown Troupe, see Chris Seeke's reports.

I wish to express my deepest thanks to Chris Seeke for all of her support and leadership to the youth of this community! There is no doubt in my mind of the passion and love she has for the work that she does. Her deep and abiding faith for God, even in the midst of personal tragedies, is truly a powerful witness to everyone around her. I also would like to express my personal thanks to all of the adult counselors who make our "jobs" as youth leaders "fun". Many thanks to Marilyn McGee, Teresa Tennyson, and Jessica Pimentel, and to Barbara Johnson, the outgoing chairperson of the Christian Education Committee, for all of your love and support!

Visitations

All hospital, Hope Hospice, and shut-in visits are coordinated between Pastor Rusty and me. I report the outcome of these visits directly to Pastor Rusty, and together, we determine appropriate follow-up strategies. From January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, I made 63 hospital calls and 29 home communion visits. In addition to weekly hospital calls and monthly communion visits, I oversee the visitation committee. This marvelous group of dedicated people also goes to the homes of our shut-ins and gives them communion. Between Pastor Rusty and I, along with the folks from the visitation committee, visit the shut-ins of Messiah Lutheran Church and offer them communion twice a month assuring them that they are not forgotten. As always, there are always openings on the visitation committee!

The Hymn Selection Committee

On October 12, 2009, the newly formed Hymn Selection Committee held its' first worship planning meeting under my leadership. This committee meets on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 PM. I give copies of the planned scripture readings, along with Sunday morning worship themes, and some suggested hymns, to all of the members for advanced planning and studies. These hymn suggestions come from *Sundays and Season*, a planning resource from Augsburg Fortress Publishing Company. During the meeting, this committee correlates hymn usage ideas working together as a group, and they make final hymn selections for the following month's Sunday worship services. This committee is opened to anyone interested in having an input for the Sunday morning hymns. For more information about this committee, don't hesitate to contact me.

Administration

From January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, I attended eight worship & music committee meetings, forty-two staff meetings, thirteen Christian Education committee meetings, eleven visitation committee meetings, eleven Concert Series

meetings, twenty Synod Conference meetings, composed or arranged thirteen titles, sequenced five hymns and anthems for the Clavanova, and I wrote thirty-five reports including monthly articles for *The Discovery*. Last year I was asked by the Bishop's staff, once again, to be on the Florida Bahamas Synod Liturgy Planning Committee for the Florida Synod Conference, and I played the organ for several of the Bishops visits across Florida during Lent. I was also one of the conference organists last May. Last August, I was a Florida delegate to the Church-Wide Assembly.

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunities to serve God as an AIM in this open and caring congregation at Messiah Lutheran Church.

God's peace be with you all,

John Renfroe, AIM

Report of the President

Wasn't it Charles Dickens who wrote, "It was the best times; it was the worst of times"? Looking back over the past year, I am reminded that it was the best of times. I don't usually dwell on negatives, so I have mostly positive images of 2009.

In the early part of the year, we began a logo contest. We decided to wait until December before ending the submissions so that everyone who worships with us would have a chance to participate. The Outreach Committee is meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2010, and I think we are going to be able to declare a winner shortly!

One of the things I implemented this year was a monthly "Chat with the President." I am usually in the conference room for an hour each month. We advertise in the Discovery when I will be there. I try to do a variety of times and days, but so far, I have found that weekdays early afternoon seem to draw the biggest crowds. Using the word 'crowd' is a bit of an exaggeration, but that is when most folks do come in. I usually have at least one person come in, and I have had as many as three. These chats provide me with feedback from you, and I consider them well-spent time at church. If my times and days don't fit your schedule, let me know. I am always ready to find a time to talk with you. In fact, the logo contest was born from one of my chats. Also, posting the church minutes in Fellowship Hall was another suggestion that Council took to heart. Please, if you read the minutes in Fellowship Hall, do not take them with you. I just found out that this month the board is bare again after they were posted.

Council also appointed a Redecorating/Renovation Committee. For far too long, we have neglected our church's condition. Our church now reflects our honoring God's house. This committee chaired by Sandy Wilcoxson was the instrumental force in our getting new flooring in the offices, east hallway, Fellowship Hall, and the Family Center. We saved hundreds of dollars when Clem Lindsten agreed to repair the stained glass windows for us. We saved hundreds more when Clem and Judy installed the new commodes in the rest rooms, which, incidentally, were repainted and redecorated. We still have restrooms to finish in the Family Center. However, carpeting in the sanctuary has been cleaned and repaired, and tile floors have been cleaned as well. Thank you to all of the committee.

Pastor Rusty planned a wonderful sabbatical, and I prayed that nothing big would happen while he was gone. Of course, two days after he left, we had the great lightning strike. I am sure God is still laughing at me because I was so desperate for things to be right that I forgot what an incredible staff we have here at Messiah and how they would rise to any occasion. And indeed they did! Pastor kept in touch with me throughout his abbreviated sabbatical. He is always on top of things going on here at church, and he reminds me to trust God for guidance. Thank you, Pastor! John Renfroe did an incredible job when our organ was ruined by the lightning strike. He did so much research on finding the new replacement that I was astounded that he would even think of some of the things he did. He presented the Council with a 14 page report before we decided on which company to hire for our new organ.

Speaking of John, Judy Steele headed up the committee to honor John Renfroe's 25th anniversary as an AIM. Our celebration was so well attended that I thought we might run out of room in the Family Center. Helen and Maria continue to be a huge part of the success of Messiah. When Helen's dad died earlier this fall, Maria stepped up to the plate and kept things running smoothly. And we can't forget Helen's implementing our new electronic newsletter. It will save us hundreds of dollars. Thanks Helen and Maria! Judy

King continues to dazzle us with the bell choir, and Ray Miller and John Scinaldi have always been gracious to my requests. Of course, we are always greeted by open doors when we come to church for a service, and Louise Teeter and Deborah Onderdonk are the ones who provide that. Thanks to all of our staff!

We tried very hard to get our recommended budget out to you in advance this year. Although the news of 2009 is rather grim – we finished in the red – I am optimistic for 2010. The Finance Committee and your Church Council took to heart the economic conditions and made some drastic cuts. Obviously, we will all be impacted by them. The Council does not like the cuts, but we must work with a budget that we believe is very realistic.

Near the end of 2009, we implemented a hymn selection committee. We hope you like the selections so far. John Renfro is spearheading this committee, and his attention to the liturgy and service is stunning. Each hymn is appropriate for that particular service. I have heard many folks say how a particular hymn goes with a particular service, and I can vouch that it is not by chance! Lots of research, Bible study, and prayer goes into choosing the hymns.

The 2010 Audit Committee is beginning its work for the 2009 budget year. I have every reason to believe that everything will be found in order.

This has been a very gratifying year for me. I look around the church, and I see folks smiling at the changes we have made. I see new faces; all that is good. I have also lost some wonderful friends this year, but I have faith that they are now in the company of the Lord.

Mostly though, I am gratified by the generosity of our congregation. When we give to God, whether in time, talent, or treasure, we are only returning a portion of the gifts God gives us. What we can accomplish in the community and in the world at large is directly affected by the willingness to give back. Thank you so much. I look around me, and I see the glory of God right here at Messiah.

Let me challenge each of us this year to find something new that we can do. My mantra for 2009 was “**Each one reach one.**” I am adding a new one for 2010: “**Strive to thrive.**” Together we can do so much at Messiah. As Pastor just said in a recent sermon, “God doesn’t gather us together for nothing.” Let’s make something of that!

May God continue to bless Messiah Lutheran Church!

Pray for peace,



Penny Kaye, Council President

Report of the Treasurer

Messiah Lutheran Church Proposed Expenses for 2010

*A complete recap of Income and Expenses for 2009
will be presented at the annual meeting*

<u>Preliminary totals</u>	<u>Budget 2009</u>	<u>Preliminary Actual 31-Dec</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2010</u>
<u>BENEVOLENCES:</u>	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 42,111.28	\$ 8,500.00
<u>WORSHIP & MUSIC</u>	\$ 16,710.00	\$ 15,379.87	\$ 10,670.00
<u>PASTOR SUPPORT:</u>	\$ 198,165.00	\$ 195,777.35	\$ 196,833.00
<u>COMMITTEES:</u>	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 21,265.31	\$ 15,700.00
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>	\$ 85,565.00	\$ 79,855.53	\$ 79,465.00
<u>PROPERTY/PLANT:</u>	\$ 83,985.00	\$ 85,370.52	\$ 75,860.00
<u>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>\$ 454,625.00</u>	<u>\$ 439,759.86</u>	<u>\$ 417,028.00</u>
<u>2009 Income (Preliminary)</u>		<u>\$ 415,757.60</u>	
<u>Expenses over Income</u>		(\$ 24,002.26)	

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Proposed Expenses for 2010**

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*A complete recap of Income and Expenses for 2009 will be presented
at the annual meeting.*

<u>BENEVOLENCES:</u>	Budget 2009	Actual 2009 (Preliminary)	Proposed Budget 2010
Synod-ELCA	\$ 26,500.00	-	\$ 23,100.00
Caloosa Conference	\$ 100.00		\$ 200.00
Social Concerns	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Discretionary	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 800.00
New Mission Start	\$ 2,000.00		\$ -
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,700.00
ELCA Missionary (Has income)			
* (Barnabas)	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 1,700.00
* Diorama (Has income)	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Lee Co Interfaith Sponsor-from committees	\$ 400.00		\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 42,111.28	\$ 38,500.00
<u>WORSHIP & MUSIC</u>			
Worship General	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 100.00
Bulletins	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Lenten Crosses	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Altar Supplies	\$ 600.00		\$ 700.00
(includes candle oil)			
* Candles & Flowers (Has income)	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Memorial Committee	\$ 200.00		\$ 50.00
Music, Dept			
(Maint., Educ, Guests, Bells)	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
(inc. microphone repair & maint)			
Organ/Piano Maintenance	\$ 750.00		\$ 700.00
Music License	\$ 740.00		\$ 800.00
Bell Choir Director	\$ 3,120.00		\$ 3,120.00
Special Event Organists	\$ 600.00		\$ -
Special Event Musicians	\$ 3,000.00		\$ -
Special Event Pastors	\$ 500.00		\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 16,710.00	\$ 5,379.87	\$ 10,670.00

* Indicates has income

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Proposed Expenses for 2010**

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	<u>Budget 2009</u>	Actual 2009 (Preliminary)	<u>Proposed Budget 2010</u>
<u>PASTOR SUPPORT:</u>			
Pastor Salary + Housing	\$ 89,930.00		\$ 89,930.00
Pastor Auto Allowance	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
Pastor FICA	\$ 5,995.00		\$ 5,996.00
Pastor ELCA Pension & Disability Ins	\$ 14,100.00		\$ 14,675.00
Pastor Health Ins	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Pastor & Aim Sabbatical	\$ 2,500.00		\$ -
Pastor Cell Phone	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Pastor Ed. & Prof. Exp & susp.	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,200.00
Aim Salary	\$ 46,632.00		\$ 46,632.00
Aim Auto Allowance	\$ 2,750.00		\$ 2,750.00
Aim ELCA Health,Pension, Disability Ins.	\$ 21,958.00		\$ 22,550.00
Aim Cell Phone	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Aim Education	\$ 600.00		\$ 600.00
Sub. Pastors & Organists (for vacations)	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 198,165.00	\$ 195,777.35	\$ 196,833.00
<u>COMMITTEES:</u>			
* Concert Series (Has Income)	\$ 11,500.00		\$ 8,000.00
Education Committee			
* Adult (Has income)	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00
Youth	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00
VBS	\$ 1,600.00		\$ 750.00
Nursery Attendant	\$ 1,300.00		\$ 300.00
* Clown Ministry (also Dedicated Funds)	\$ 400.00		\$ 400.00
Outreach Committee	\$ 800.00		\$ 500.00
Telephone Advertising	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 1,400.00
Advertising-Other	\$ 900.00		\$ -
Lutheran Magazine & Christ in our Home	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,050.00
Men in Mission	\$ 300.00		\$ 100.00
Stewardship Committee	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 500.00
* Offering Envelopes	\$ 800.00		\$ 800.00
* Congregation Events/kitchen & coffee hr	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 500.00
Picture Directory	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 21,265.31	\$ 15,700.00

* Indicates has income

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Proposed Expenses for 2010**

Page 3

	Budget 2009	Actual 2009 (Preliminary)	Proposed Budget 2010
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>			
Web site expense	\$ 250.00		\$ 140.00
Computer Expense	\$ 1,500.00		\$ 750.00
Machine Repair & Maint	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Office	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 7,000.00
Synod Assembly -Lay and Clergy	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00		\$ 200.00
Council Expense	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Postage	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 2,200.00
Telephone Service, Local & Toll	\$ 3,200.00		\$ 3,200.00
Secretaries	\$ 47,250.00		\$ 47,250.00
Employers FICA Taxes	\$ 8,575.00		\$ 8,575.00
Payroll Service	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 1,400.00
Workers Comp Ins.	\$ 4,890.00		\$ 3,050.00
TOTAL	\$ 85,565.00	\$ 79,855.53	\$ 79,465.00
<u>PROPERTY/PLANT:</u>			
Custodian	\$ 17,200.00		\$ 17,200.00
Electric	\$ 17,500.00		\$ 17,500.00
* Insurance (Has income) (KC will pay \$5,900.00)	\$ 24,000.00		\$ 24,025.00
Pest Control	\$ 1,785.00		\$ 1,785.00
Building Repair & Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 5,000.00
Trash, Water, Supplies	\$ 6,500.00		\$ 6,350.00
Landscape Repair & Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 500.00
Landscape Services	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 3,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 83,985.00	\$ 85,370.52	\$ 75,860.00
<u>CAPITAL:</u>			
Capital Improvement			
TOTAL	\$ -		\$ -
<u>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>\$ 454,625.00</u>	<u>\$ 439,759.86</u>	<u>\$ 417,028.00</u>

* Indicates has income

Report of the Financial Secretary

5YEAR AVERAGE MONTH TOTAL	MONTHLY % BUD.	2009 ACTUAL	MONTHLY % BUD.	2009 BUDGET
JANUARY				
\$ 34,005.50	8.76%	\$ 40,318.90	8.87%	\$ 39,825.15
FEBRUARY				
\$ 32,110.23	8.27%	\$ 40,859.88	8.99%	\$ 37,597.49
MARCH				
\$ 45,592.68	11.74%	\$ 41,246.96	9.07%	\$ 53,372.98
APRIL				
\$ 36,579.98	9.42%	\$ 39,276.09	8.64%	\$ 42,825.68
MAY				
\$ 31,510.91	8.12%	\$ 27,714.57	6.10%	\$ 36,915.55
JUNE				
\$ 23,402.44	6.03%	\$ 23,160.18	5.09%	\$ 27,413.89
JULY				
\$ 19,363.06	4.99%	\$ 22,222.41	4.89%	\$ 22,685.79
AUGUST				
\$ 26,290.98	6.77%	\$ 21,415.25	4.71%	\$ 30,778.11
SEPTEMBER				
\$ 21,350.39	5.50%	\$ 17,365.00	3.82%	\$ 25,004.38
OCTOBER				
\$ 24,891.12	6.41%	\$ 26,218.95	5.77%	\$ 29,141.46
NOVEMBER				
* \$ 39,934.24	10.29%	\$ 42,696.87	9.39%	\$ 46,780.91
DECEMBER				
\$ 53,161.98	13.69%	\$ 64,064.27	14.09%	\$ 62,283.62
\$ 388,193.51	100.00%	\$ 406,559.33	89.43%	\$ 454,625.00

Included in the 2009 Actual Giving Total is \$8,000.00 donated in 2008 for 2009 pledges.

Once again, many thanks to the congregation of Messiah for their continuous donations to both the operating costs of the church and to special designated collections throughout the year.

I would also like to thank all the offering counters, MJ Congilio and Helen Gierke for their help the past 3 years. I truly appreciate having had the opportunity to serve as Financial Secretary for our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Lindsten, Financial Secretary

Clown Ministry

Messiah Lutheran Church Christian Clown Troupe Fools For Christ had an active year. We had several new youth join. Our year consisted of training or retraining depending on how long the youth have been involved in our ministry together. When new youth join they too must learn the art of Christian Clowning, how to put on make-up and how to use exaggeration to help tell the story. We are constantly working on our clown skills. We have had many, many rehearsals. We presented several skits at churches and at Riverside Retreat Center in La Belle Fl.

We began they year working on exaggeration. Then we practiced *The Champion* which we presented to Messiah in March. We had several weeks of rehearsals and lots of dedicated work to be ready to do our best. The skit was great. The youth did a fantastic job of bringing the message of this song by Carmen to the congregation. *The Champion* is a song about Jesus and Satan fighting in the desert for 40 days and nights. Set in a boxing ring, Jesus and Satan fight it to the finish or so Satan thinks. Just as Satan is celebrating his victory, Jesus comes alive and defeats him. This is one of our hardest skits to learn and present well. The clowns must pay attention to the music and act out each part to the exact time of the words of the song. My beloved mother was in the congregation that Sunday. It was the first and last time she would ever see Messiah's Clown Troupe clown around for Jesus. She loved it and was so proud of their work. She would beam whenever she would talk about seeing *The Champion* and how well the youth did.

Next we worked on *The Unbeliever* sermon which we presented at Riverside Retreat Center for the campers who attended Children's Week and Youth Week in July. Again we spent a lot of time rehearsing and preparing to do our best for the campers. The campers enjoyed it. I feel the message of *The Unbeliever* fit very well with the camp's theme this year, *PRAY!* We also presented to the campers at both camps our Communion part of our Clown Service. This is the most meaningful and poignant part of our service of Mime and Celebration. We touched one camper so much he was crying. This was a big tough youth, too. His comment was he had never understood what communion was about until he that night when he witnessed Communion as presented by our clown troupe. It is moments like these when the Holy Spirit opens the congregation to truly be touched and moved by God's love for us through Jesus that touches the hearts of the youth as they clown around for Jesus. They will never forget how people are touched by their hard dedicated work.

We also developed and presented the skit for John Renfroe's party celebrating 25 years as an AIM. The youth met at my home several times to rehearse this skit because it was a total surprise to John. He later told me he knew he was in trouble when he saw all the youth at his party. They did a great job and again spent a good amount of time preparing this skit for John. My sincere thanks to Teresa Tennyson, Jessica Pimentel and Marilyn McGee for all their help with this skit. They took over when I was in Gainesville GA with my newest granddaughter Jemma. They rehearsed with the youth, got the props ready and worked with them to schedule times to get together. They all did a wonderful job. My thanks to the youth who gave their time and had fun sharing John's life with the congregation.

While it may not seem we were not too busy with clown ministry we were very busy preparing to present several skits. One does not truly realize how much time, and energy it takes to clown around for Jesus. It takes time to train properly. It takes time to learn how to

put on make-up. It takes times and dedication to learn how to exaggerate and use your face to make someone smile or bring a tear to their eye without saying one word. For me, clowning is a passionate way of expressing God's love for you and for me.

I would like to thank Teresa Tennyson, Marilyn McGee, Jessica Pimentel and John Renfroe for all their help and support with Messiah's Clown Ministry Troupe. The youth and I truly do appreciate everything they do to help us with our Ministry together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Seeke, Sr. Advisor

Christian Education

The Christian Education committee ended 2008 really well. We had about 9 children coming to Sunday School and 4 young people attending confirmation most of the time. This was the result of a very successful Vacation Bible School. We also had two Sunday School teachers and Pastor Rusty was teaching the confirmation class.

We are not really sure what happened in 2009, but we ended up with only two children and one teacher in Sunday School on a regular basis. I believe that there is only one child that attends confirmation now. Miss Carmen and the children from Kid's Connection provided the Christmas program for 2009. We had only one child from Messiah, the narrator, that was in the program. We did have the Birthday Party for Jesus after the children's Christmas program but only Kid's Connection children and their parents attended.

Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer consisted only of children from Kid's Connection. We had no advertisement out in the community as we had no coordinator. Volunteers from Messiah and the personnel from Kid's Connection put on the VBS.

We have all of the tools to put on a wonderful VBS this coming summer thanks to the generosity of two different churches in the area, but unless there is an adult to step forward to organize this program that will go by the wayside as well. I am sad to end my two year tenure on this note. I hope that the new chairman for Christian Education and her committee will have more success in the future than we have had in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Johnson, Chair

Messiah Lutheran Church Women (MLCW)

The MLCW is a vital and vigorous presence in the life of Messiah Lutheran Church and of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA). We are centered on service to the congregation and Bible studies. The times and places are listed in the monthly *Discovery* and the weekly worship bulletins. In response to God's grace we give service to those with special needs. We provide fellowship, prepare Lutheran World Relief Kits, provide quilts, lap robes and afghans and we have added a prayer shawl ministry named *Messiah Hooks and Needles*. We prepare funeral and memorial refreshments and special lunches and desserts for members and groups of the church.

The Messiah Quilters meet in the Family Center on the third Thursday of every month. This year many willing hands made 88 quilts from fabric that is supplied by donations of the congregation. They were distributed to the Bayshore Elementary and Lutheran Services Oasis House for Youth Shelter, and Lutheran World Relief. We gave one of our most outstanding quilts to Oasis House for a raffle. We collected \$661.00 for batting and shipping expenses this year when the quilts were displayed on the pews in November. This helps us with the expense of buying quilt batting, thread, needles and other supplies for making quilts, afghans and sweaters. We appreciate the support given by all Messiah members for this year long mission of MLCW.

Our knitters and crocheters kept their needles busy making afghans and baby sweaters from donated yarn. Ten afghans were given to Lee County Veterans Outreach Inc. for needy and homeless veterans. Ten baby wraps and 10 neo-natal caps were given to the Neo-Natal unit at Health Park. These were all made from yarn donated from the congregation. We appreciate your contributions.

Since the Prayer Shawl group was started in June, we have made and dedicated 61 shawls. They are a blessing to those making the shawls as well as to those receiving them.

In January, MLCW assembled and donated for Lutheran World Relief: 27 School Kits, 28 Baby Layettes, 7 Health Kits, 9 Sewing Kits, 100 Baby Sweaters and 11 Quilts. We sent 152 pounds in 12 boxes. Our monetary cost for shipping was \$200 to Project Comfort and \$25.00 to Caloosa Conference for the local truck. This project is a year long process that culminates each January in shipments to destinations wherever the need exists in the U.S. and around the world. Your donations of articles and money make this outreach activity possible.

The MLCW receives no funding from the church budget and we do sincerely thank the many members and friends who have so generously given to our projects. The collection for Women of the ELCA Thank Offering last February was \$1,048.97 and provided needed funds for the outreach projects of the church-wide organization.

The support of the circles and faithful members of Messiah serving for memorials, receptions, Advent and Lent Soups enabled MLCW to contribute financial support to Church Women United Scholarship Fund, the Grace Place, Oasis and the Lutheran Family Services, Lee County Schools Fund, and Lifeline. We are very happy that we can be helpful in so many ways for those in need. MLCW also purchased two new stainless steel coffee pots to be used for Coffee Hour.

The Messiah prayer chain is also one of the projects of MLCW. This year five prayer chains of at least five members each, experienced the power of God in bringing physical and spiritual comfort and healing to the sick and bereaved through 65 chains. The

prayers of our members are deeply appreciated. When you or a friend are in need of prayers, call the church and your needs will be sent by phone through the prayer chains. More than twenty five prayer chain members will be praying for your needs within a few hours.

This year we were glad to share our Giving Tree with the needy families of Bayshore Elementary School. Your contributions of more than \$1,015.00 were used to purchase new school uniforms and shoes for the children. What a blessing to share with these children.

MLCW was represented by various members at the Caloosa Conference Spring Gathering, the Caloosa Conference Mini Retreat, the WELCA Days of Renewal and Church Women United gatherings. The MLCW Board also organized and presented a Mother's Day Out in May and our own retreat this summer. Everyone who attended was blessed with a day of fellowship. The Women of the Bible presentation has been revitalized and was presented to Christ Lutheran Church in November. All of these opportunities have been rewarding experiences for the ladies. We urge all the ladies of Messiah to come and join in the inspiration and fellowship of women. Look for our announcements of these various activities.

To those women of Messiah who have not become involved in MLCW, please consider joining us in any of these wonderful activities. We each have been given special gifts and talents. We are always looking for new projects and ideas. We ask that you would share with us to the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Egleston, MLCW President
Joyce Goers, Messiah Lutheran Church Council

December 2009

MLCW Budget
January 1, — December 31, 2009

Receipts

Circle & General Meetings	201.29
Memorials	922.00
ThankOffering	1,058.97
Coffee	109.25
Advent & Lent Soup	243.92
Luncheon	23.00
LWR Kit Donations	249.46
Pillow Quilts sold	20.00
Least Coin	53.50
W. Loga Scout Donation	50.00
Retreat Bus Trip	32.00
Women of the Bible (Christ L)	50.00
Quilt Sunday	671.00
Total	\$3,684.39

Checking Balance Jan 1, 2009 **\$2,718.46**

Disbursements

Synod	61.20
Lutheran Women Today 1 Yr	44.00
Love Offering	25.00
ThankOffering	1,058.97
Project Comfort	200.00
Lutheran Relief Kits	154.43
Oklee Quilting –Batting	191.88
Food for memorials	530.26
Fellowship/Least Coin	53.50
Boy Scout Troop #761	250.00
Yarn/prayer shawls	133.90
Printed checks	39.50
2 new coffee pots	274.41
Retreat food & favors	109.46
Delegate to Lake Yale	160.00
Bus driver/retreat	50.00
Kitchen supplies	135.90
Table cloths (18)	133.85
Life Line	100.00
Dianne Malcomb (Lee Cty Schools Special fund)	300.00
Advent Soup	16.20
Total	\$4,022.46

Balance December 31, 2009 **\$2,380.39**

Outreach

We introduced 14 new members during 2009, and also had three former members reactivate their Messiah membership. We are always looking for people who might be interested in joining us at Messiah. If you know of any prospects, contact a member of the Outreach Committee and we will do the follow up.

We had a busy year completing our Pictorial Directory—many thanks to Louise Teeter and Jean Hauser for the many hours they spent finalizing this project. If you do not have a copy of this Directory, you can check with the office to see if there are any available.

We had our second “Omelet in a Bag” event in February. This was a fun event and we served 117 people.

We put more emphasis on our Fellowship Program this year, and have had many good comments about the opportunities to mingle with our fellow members on “a social basis.” During 2009 we had two “Movie Nights,” an Italian Dinner, and our members Joan and Bob Waterman did a presentation on their mission time in Japan with not only facts, but with photos and some memorabilia. In December 40 people from Messiah went up to Fisherman’s Village in Punta Gorda and took the Christmas Canal Cruise. It was a fun evening and the Christmas lights were awesome.

Shirley Egleston and her “crew” did a terrific job on our two Dioramas this year. We appreciate her commitment to these two very big projects, and also to the Messiah members who participate to make them successful. Be sure to tell your neighbors and friends about these two events.

We launched a “LOGO” Contest late in 2009 asking our members to come up with ideas for a new Messiah logo. The contest ended December 31 and we received many ideas. The artwork submitted will be appraised in January 2010. The logo will be used not only on our stationery, weekly bulletins, *Discovery*, etc., but possibly on shirts for our members. There will be more details on this a bit later.

Beverly Krueger, Outreach Chairperson

Property

We have been busy trying to catch up on responsibilities and repairs as this post was left open during the 2008 season. We are thankful for the help of Warren Gee for plumbing, George Graham for assisting our electrician, Ray Miller for his many chores, Groundhogs Joe Van Skike and chair Dick Weiss (see his report following this), and Dave Scherer for his endless knowledge and advice.

Major tasks completed during 2009 included:

- ◆ We hired weekly lawn service for mowing and trimming only. The Groundhogs continue to do all bushes and general trimming.
- ◆ Shultz Refrigeration was called to do a service update for our air conditioning units. One compressor had to be replaced.
- ◆ Our trees were trimmed and 3 cut down due to lightning damage.
- ◆ The electric range in the Family Center was repaired.
- ◆ Two locks on our complex were preplaced and/or repaired.
- ◆ Sprinkler systems were inspected and returned to working order.
- ◆ Asphalt was added to west end of parking lot to facilitate school bus turnaround.
- ◆ Fire Alarm panel in sacristy hall was repaired.
- ◆ A loose light valance on the west side of the sanctuary was repaired by Mike Frett.
- ◆ Repaired an/or replaced dusk to dawn lights in parking lot, lights in sanctuary, plus numerous lights, ballasts, emergency lights and fixtures throughout the property
- ◆ Oscillating fans were installed on the altar to prevent sound distortion.
- ◆ Purchased and installed wood-grain vinyl flooring in reception area, offices, workroom, fellowship hall and Family Center main hall.
- ◆ Repaired and/or replaced numerous plumbing problems throughout the complex.
- ◆ Had septic system emptied and returned to working order.
- ◆ Security cameras in Kid's Connection were replaced due to lightning damage, as was anew breaker and pump in the pump house.
- ◆ Established Redecorating Committee (report follows).

Respectfully submitted,

Larry and Sandy Wilcoxson

Redecorating Committee

Initial investigation and decisions for redecorating was initiated in July by Property Redecorating Committee members Pastor Rusty, Penny and Joe Kaye, Judy Lindsten and Larry and Sandy Wilcoxson. The following improvements have been completed as of November 2009:

- ◆ Torn carpet on the altar was repaired
- ◆ Five new water-saver toilets were installed in the church restrooms by Judy and Clem Lindsten
- ◆ Three new faucets and two new lights were installed in the ladies' restroom
- ◆ The reception area, all offices, workroom, fellowship hall, kitchen and both restrooms in the church were repainted and decorated.
- ◆ New ceilings were installed in the reception area
- ◆ Round stained glass window at the ushers table on the north entrance was repaired by Mike Frett

- ◆ Stained glass windows on the west side of the sanctuary were re-soldered by Clem Lindsten
- ◆ Professional cleaning of the sanctuary carpet, and deep cleaning with sealing was done on tile floors of both church restrooms and the tile in the Family Center kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry and Sandy Wilcoxson

Maintenance Report

Grounds: 2009 saw the close of an era at Messiah, the end of the Groundhogs as a viable and vigorous volunteer force. What once as a dynamic group of up to 20 volunteers, who cared for all the horticulture and landscape needs of our property has over the years dwindled to but two individuals at the end of 2009. This past year the cutting and trimming of the lawn as well as trimming of all but the smallest trees have been turned over to professionals at considerable expense. The remaining work of fertilization, weed control, edging, trimming of the bushes, and the removal and/or replacement of dead plants has, so far, been managed by the two remaining workers. Attempts to recruit more helpers have resulted in a few member becoming involved in the care of two specific areas: Will and Jan Altman in the Memorial Garden and Lorrie Blanchard in the Butterfly Garden. A major influx of new volunteers is critical if we are to avoid spending 'big bucks' in the care and feeding of our grounds. Currently, except for a few isolated areas, our church grounds is a collection of weed infested 'lawn' with a hodge-podge of dissimilar plants which individually are not very attractive and together present very little semblance of planning. Recommendation: Serious thought should be given to the development and implementation of a master plan for the plantings around the church with heavy emphasis on ease and economy of maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Weiss

Social Concerns

Committee members are Buddy & Diane Malcomb, Joyce Goers, Jessie Slivecky, Diann Dircz, Melva Garwood, Jack Schleich, Jean Hauser, Marge Drager, Pr. Rusty May
Jack Schleich is the "Food Pantry Guy" extraordinaire who sorts, places in containers and distributes our plentiful cupboard to where it is most needed. He also coordinated the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for which about 1000 lbs. of foodstuffs were received & distributed.

The St. Barnabas Jars continue to support various worthy recipients. In 2009, they were Kairos Inside/Kairos Outside, Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and Boy Scout Troop #761. Social Concerns thanks you, the Messiah Church Family, for your continued generosity.

Buddy & Diane Malcomb continue with their ministries in Kairos Inside & Outside to spread God's joy to the prisoners in the correctional facilities as well as their families and loved ones in our cities and towns.

Of our many programs this year, we were able to provide shade trees for the Oasis Center in Ft. Myers to provide some outdoor time for residents during the hot summer months. We also went to Lifeline Family Center in Cape Coral for a tour of their facility as well as an eye-opening lesson on their ministry with young single mothers-to-be, some of whom already have toddlers but lack education in both school and life lessons. Another item which was renewed was the purchase of greeting cards for prisoners, principally for DeSoto Correctional which is provided at a minimal cost. Diann Dircz coordinated the Salvation Army bell ringers again this year as a pre-Christmas project. Thank you to all who participated.

At the beginning of 2009, CharlieAnn Curtis was our Chair and Council Representative. To our great sadness, CharlieAnn passed from this earth to use her faith and joy to continue her mission at God's hand. Our hearts are grateful to all those who have helped Social Concerns to complete our yearly mission and offer blessings to Diann Dircz as she now takes the helm for next year.

Monetary gifts for 2009 are as follows: (next page)

<u>Social Concerns</u>		<u>Food Banks</u>	
Lifeline Family Center	\$250	Harry Chapin Food Bank	\$250
J. Colin English School	\$300	Ft. Myers Rescue Mission	\$250
American Rehabilitation Ministries	\$ 50	Cape Coral Caring Center	\$250
Kairos Inside	\$100	Wake Up, America	\$300
Kairos Outside	\$250	Suncoast Community Center	\$400
CharlieAnn Curtis Memorial –Messiah	\$100	St. Vincent de Paul	\$500
American Rehabilitation Ministries	\$ 50	Salvation Army	\$400
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida	\$200	Lifeline Family Center	\$500
Shrine Circus Fund for Children	\$100	Wake Up, America	\$300
Gabriel House	\$500	Gabriel House	\$500
Lifeline Family Center	\$400	Cape Coral Caring Center	\$500
Transfer to Pr. Rusty's Discretionary Fund	\$500	Diane Malcomb (for N. Ft. Myers Elem. Schools Needy Children)	\$500
Transfer to Hold Acct ./Haiti Project	\$1200	Jack Schleich (local family in need)	\$400
Salvation Army	\$500	Wake Up, America	\$300
<u>ELCA Good Gifts (cow)</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>Community Cooperative Ministries</u>	<u>\$500</u>
Totals	\$ 5,000		\$5,850

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hauser, Acting Chair

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee started the year with the 2009 Stewardship Campaign and ended the year with the 2010 program.

The results of each did not bowl anyone over but they did more or less reflect the averages shown over the last several years. Thankfully, the congregation greatly exceeded the "God's Promises -- Our Gifts" 2009 treasure pledged in the \$250,000 area to approach about \$400,000 needed to keep this church running.

By the end of 2009, pledges for 2010 "Let's Go Green" reached 146 and totaled \$234,359. Thank you members, associate members and friends of Messiah Lutheran Church for standing tall in your efforts to return to God's work the treasure you have offered. Please remember that it is never too late to fill out a Pledge Card and the Time and Talent Form.

As usual, the campaign included our Time and Talent Forms. The tabulation is underway or has been completed by the time you read this. Committee people will be responding to your offerings of time and talent with grateful hearts.

Many hands and minds have participated in the expanded Stewardship Committee and its activities this year. It has been a pleasure to have so many on board.

Prayerfully submitted,
Rod Felix, Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Worship and Music

The members of the committee are listed alphabetically with their areas of responsibility:

Mary Ann Breski	Chairperson
Norma Dettra	Communion Assistants
Charlotte Engle	Altar Guild
Joan King	Lectors
Pastor Rusty May	Pastor
Joan Peetz	Ushers
John Renfroe	AIM, Music & Choir Director, Organist
Jessie Slivecky	Greeters & Ushers
Pearl Slusher	Ushers
Claudia Weiss	Lectors

January began mid Concert Series. Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass presented hymn classics. In February, Ken Medema, demonstrated his musical vision with improvisational singing. The Bethune-Cookman University Choir delighted us with their choral excellence. The series was completed in April with the Messiah Chancel Choir and the Camerata String Orchestra from Cypress Lake High School presenting portions of Messiah. The Messiah Quartet and Handbell Choir also added their special touches to the final concert. Although attendance was down slightly from normal, and there was minor grumbling about the charges, it was a successful season and well received by those in attendance.

It was decided that we would go to one service for summer season on May 24, Memorial Day weekend. We reviewed what other churches in the area do to accommodate the seasonality of our residents. We started our fall season of two Sunday services on October 4. Rally Day, heralding the start of Sunday School, was prior to that on September 17.

We are always looking for more people to assist with the worship experience in the various services. Saturday night services do not require the liturgist to sing, so people can volunteer as a non-singing liturgist making it easier for some to volunteer. Pastor held a training session for new liturgists.

Early in the year John Renfroe organized a new Messiah Motet. His goal is to have musical leadership at all services. John also organized a new hymn planning committee. Andrew Kurtz, director of Gulf Coast Symphony, has been working with John and the Kid's Connection leadership to develop a music program for our kids. It is a community service project to involve more children with music and the arts, and the disciplines they offer. The program has taken more time to come together than anticipated, but it will enhance the Kid's Connection experience.

Charlotte Engle ordered a new banner for Easter and one for Lent. We added two new vases and two new candlesticks with oil burning candles. We utilized the Memorial Fund for these purchases. Two inside/outside banners were purchased. They are 4'X8' and say "God's Work, Our Hands" and the Christian Education committee generously paid for them. We purchased a small, student sized refrigerator for the Sacristy. It holds the communion wine. This has greatly simplified communion set-up as no one needs to carry a measuring cup of wine through the coffee hour crowd anymore. Wooden crosses were again given to the worshipers to wear or give away during Lent and have been purchased

for 2010.

We used an existing banner for our delegation to carry at the Synod Convention. However, it was not designed for this purpose and does not actually identify us as the Messiah Lutheran Church delegation. We are adapting another banner for this purpose. Sandy Wilcoxson made us a new Altar cloth. We are looking into purchasing candles for the ends of the pews to be used for festivals, but budget cuts will affect this. Joan Peetz is willing to take the hoods off of the hooded gowns, which are seldom used and very well made. The hoodless gowns are getting threadbare, and new, less well made gowns are \$100 each.

We regretfully received a letter of resignation from June Buer. She has been a faithful servant on the committee getting ushers for Saturday evening and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services, and her service has been greatly appreciated. We were thrilled when David Samuel volunteered to fill June's position. David has been a great help but is currently on an extended leave from the committee and thankfully, Jessie Slivecky is securing ushers for these two services as well as greeters for all.

We have had some on-going issues with the timing of the ushers going forward for the offering and communion. We have made progress with this issue, but it will continue to be addressed.

The Lent services used costumed monologue presenters in place of the sermons. The services were well received. We did affirmation of our Baptism during the Lenten services instead of confession. We had very good attendance throughout Lent, instead of attendance dwindling off as it has some years.

We had our first ever Easter Vigil service Saturday before Easter, which can last as long as three hours or even overnight. We decided to start with a 1.5-2.0 hour service and see what the response was. The service traditionally starts outside, after dark, or in a dark church, symbolizing the dark tomb. When possible, there is a baptism at the service. In the longer services there are 12 readings symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel (12 disciples) but only certain readings are required. We had a fire basin for the opening portion outside. Then we went into a darkened fellowship area for the readings by various people, before ending up in the nave, bathed in light. To our excitement, we had 85 in attendance. The service lasted 80 minutes. Although it was dusk, not dark when we started, Easter will be earlier in the month in 2010 so it will be dark a little earlier.

We have had several situations where someone needed to lay down and receive medical attention. Evie Brandt and Eddie Allison donated two cots. One is in Fellowship Hall and the other in the Family Center. We distributed a questionnaire and Helen Gierke created lists of medical professionals and CERT (Community Emergency Readiness Training) trained people. The lists have been posted in the Ushers closet and at the pulpit.

Pastor taped services with him preaching at the pulpit and also preaching in front of the congregation. We determined it works well for him to preach in front of the congregation, and he does not need to be at the pulpit. We also have moved the communion plates and chalices onto the altar. The communion assistants only need to carry up the host and the wine flagon. It was brought to our attention that there has been concern about struggling to carry too many pieces up to the altar during the service.

We had several pastors help out during the year, including Pastor May's daughter, Jenn, who also made a presentation about her trip to Palestine. Pastor Spengler blessed us with his services during Pastor Rusty's sabbatical. Although we missed Pastor and P.J., we were pleased he was able to fulfill most of his sabbatical plans, coming home early only because of P.J.'s accidental injury. We'd do almost anything to keep them around, but we

certainly did not wish this unfortunate trip-ending event on Pastor and P.J.

Another unfortunate incident occurred when lightning hit the church. The organ was disabled as well as other electrical problems created. After a great deal of research by John Renfro, the Council voted to replace the organ and install adequate UPS/surge protectors on it. There was a \$5000 insurance deductible due on all repairs created by the lightning strike. A loaner organ was provided for Advent season and the new organ will be installed in early 2010.

This past year was the year of the Swine Flu epidemic. We responded by assuring the congregation that they can comfortably choose not to shake hands, reminding them to cough into their elbows and providing hand sanitizer to be used after the Passing of the Peace. We also are putting more wine in the Communion flagons so everyone will have a better chance of seeing the wine and avoiding dipping their fingers in it.

Monday, Oct. 19, is the Festival of Luke, the Evangelist of Healing. The committee has decided that after each service on the weekend preceding, there will be healing ceremonies. Women of the Bible group will be presenting the sermon the weekend of January 30-31.

The electronic distribution of our monthly Discovery newsletter has had mixed reviews. Although it is very well put together, it is challenging for some of our less technological parishioners. It is necessary, as we all must make drastic budget cuts and it will substantially lower costs.

The Advent season featured the Women in Jesus' family tree on Wednesdays and Sundays focused on the canticles. It was a full run of services as Christmas was on Friday, with services on December 24, 25, 26 and 27. The Worship and Music committee prepared and served a light meal between evening services for the choir members performing at both services. Thanks to Claudia Weiss who provided the main entrée and all of the committee who provided food or served.

We were very happy to celebrate John Renfro's 25th year as an AIM. Judy Steele, along with the Clown Ministry group and Kid's Connection, put together a wonderful luncheon and presentation celebrating this happy event and honoring John and his contribution to Messiah Lutheran.

I feel very blessed to be able to work with the faithful and responsible members of this committee. They have met their commitments even though several have faced health and other major challenges in 2009. Their contributions are too numerous to mention. John Renfro adds much to our worship experience through the infusion of music, the Kid's Connection and the Clown Ministry. Pastor Rusty continually inspires us with his biblical and enthusiastic leadership.

We appreciate the many volunteers who fulfill the various duties in our worship services. It is truly a matter of "God's Work, Our Hands." The more you are involved, the more you will feel the blessing of being a part of God's community. Contact any committee member to volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Breski, Worship and Music Chair

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry this year has been exciting and rewarding. Our group consists of members from different schools and church denominations. We have Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist and one adult and college-age member from Cape Christian Fellowship. God has called us to gather in His name for lots of fun and fellowship. Our Ministry together brings us closer to God and each other. My faith journey is enhanced each time we are together with every activity or time playing our silly games. The sillier the better too!

This year we have had many activities. We have been bowling several times. We played Mini Golf, went to the movies, kayaking, and had some fun times at my house playing games. We sold sub sandwiches to raise money for camp scholarships.

In February we had our Retreat at Riverside Retreat Center in La Belle, FL. We arrived Friday night and left Sunday after our worship together. Our theme was God the Universe and Me. We developed our bible studies based on the universe. Each lesson consisted of the bible verses for the study and a discussion regarding the topic of that lesson. Session 1 was The Earth, Session 2 was Adults are From Venus Teens are From Mars, session 3 was The Black Hole, Session 4 was The Son. We also did a service project for Riverside which consisted of preparing the soil for a garden to surround and protect a wild orchid near one of the Lodges at Riverside. In return Riverside has reduced our rates for renting the kayaks at the camp.

On Sunday we had our own worship service developed especially around the retreat and our time together. Each morning and evening we held our devotions. Whenever we could our devotions were outside where we could see the River and experience Gods universe first hand. For some of our campers it was their first retreat. For others it was the first time they had s'mores around a warm campfire at night. We always enjoy our times at Riverside Retreat Center. For me it is a special place where God's Universe looms in every corner, plant, animal, and especially the river. I thank Teresa Tennyson for cooking all our wonderful meals. I thank Jessica Pimentel for all her help with the youth and with the meals too. I especially thank John Renfro for his work in developing the bible studies, guidance with the youth and support in every youth activity.

This year we had 4 teens attend Youth Week at Riverside Retreat Center July 12-18th. We also had 2 of our college youth ministry members work as counselors during Children's Week and Youth Week. I was the Dean for the Jr. High campers. We had 12 counselors and 45 campers in Jr. High. In Sr. High there were 10 counselors and 45 campers. We had a wonderful week filled with many various activities. We had devotions, bible studies, drumming, arts and crafts, swimming, free time and a very meaningful worship each night. Our theme PRAY taught us different ways to pray and to learn how to hear God speaking to us. I am proud of our camp time together. I am enriched by the campers. They empower me to do my best to guide them in their relationship with God. The youth who attended in 2009 truly look forward to camp each year. I know I do. Just ask any one of the youth who attended camp in 2009 about their experience and they will give you an earful for as long as you will listen. Its wonderful to hear them talk about their camp experiences.

Messiah's Youth Ministry is a core group of young teens who truly do enjoy being with each other. They accept each other, care for each other and help each other grow in their faith as young Christians. It is not easy for teens today to share their faith. It is my goal to be a Christian role model for the youth which will help them in their faith journeys. To enable them to be great Christian role models for all the people they encounter in their

lives, now and in the future.

I thank John Renfro, Jessica Pimentel, Teresa Tennyson and Marilyn McGee for all their help with driving,. I especially appreciate all their support, and guidance in our Youth Ministry together.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Seeke, Senior Advisor

Mission Endowment Fund

Messiah's Mission Endowment Fund (the Fund) was established in 2003 by vote of the congregation after receiving a few undesignated gifts from the estates of members. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a vehicle for individuals who have the desire to support the long-range missions of Messiah Lutheran Church. Grants from the Fund shall be used to extend 'god's mission, respond to human needs, and support education for Christian life and service.

2009 was a year of recovery from the Fund's significant (paper) losses sustained by our investments in 2008. On Jan 1, 2009 the Fund's assets were a little over \$115,000. As of Dec. 31, 2009, the balance was almost \$144,000. That increase was attributable to new capital gifts, dividends, and investment gains. This year we will allocate up to approximately \$7,200 for grants to individuals and organizations whose purposes meet our criteria as listed above. Our bylaws state that only the growth portion of the fund will be distributed as grants, not the individual gifts (the corpus) that have been given to make up the fund. Put another way, your individual donations to the fund will never be consumed, but remain in the fund as a gift that keeps on giving. We solicit your interest as well as gifts to the Fund. Appropriate gifts may include smaller Memorials given to commemorate significant occasions in one's life to larger bequests.

Richard H. Weiss, Fund Chair

Kid's Connection Early Learning Center

Kid's Connection of Messiah Lutheran Church has so many things to be thankful for. Our Center consists of children from many different cultures, ranging in ages from six weeks to five year olds. We also have an after school program ages 5 to 12, which includes Spring and Summer Camp.

We have been blessed with having most of our staff working here at Kid's Connection for over two years. This eliminates the problem of having continuous revolving staff, which does not provide stability for the children. I believe that God is the reason that we have this center to serve our community. God has always led our way to plant the seeds of spiritual growth, love for him and academics. I thank God for letting me be part of Kid's Connection of Messiah Lutheran Church. Many times I have been asked by members of Messiah Lutheran Church how Kid's Connection functions. I believe this is the perfect time to include this in our annual report. We really want you to feel that you are a part of Kid's Connection. So for those who are not too familiar with a typical day at Kid's Connection, here it goes!

Kid's Connection is an Early Learning Center, which means we do not only care for the children, but we believe academics has a very important role here. The center opens at 6:30 AM and we begin to welcome our parents and children. We serve breakfast to children who bring it from home. We do not provide breakfast, but if any child needs to be fed, we will supply it. At 8:30 AM we start our learning activities introducing the theme for the day and free choice activities. At 9:00 AM we have snacks followed by circle time, which consist of a story and children's interest. The children's day continues on with music, art, writing, math, science, manipulatives, exercise and outdoor play. At 11:30 AM they have lunch followed by a nap until 2:00 PM. The afternoon continues with fun and play. The curriculum also includes weekly bible words and bible stories to focus on. The center closes at 6:00 PM.

Every Monday morning the children have chapel with Pastor Rusty and on Thursday morning they have music with John Renfro. We have a great family involvement plan that provides all our families the opportunity to share in the experiences of their children while enrolled at our center. Some of the events are Open House, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Children Christmas Parties, Birthdays, Parent Conferences, King and Queen Valentines Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Fall Festival, Father's Day Breakfast, Mother's Day Breakfast and Graduation. This year we celebrated all of these events with great success.

And as always, we are extending our invitation to the members of Messiah Lutheran Church to join us in all our functions throughout the following year.

Kid's Connection has an open door policy for parent's visitation. We have closed circuit monitoring in all classroom and outdoors. There is constant communication through newsletters, bulletin boards and daily reports. Wow, isn't Kid's Connection a great place for children to be at! Now that you know all about Kid's Connection, tell your family and friends about us.

Kid's Connection had a good year in spite of the over all economy, which is still affecting everyone. We were able to keep all of our staff employed full time, offer parents and children good affordable day care and keep our center in tip top conditions, staying within our budget. Although there have been many changes in the agencies which oversee us, we have been able to keep up with all standards they are looking for. We passed all of their inspections and evaluations. Their feedback has been very positive.

Thanks to Messiah for having such a nice and accessible family center and letting us utilize it. For this reason, we have been able to offer the teachers training in all the ever-changing policies, rules and regulations, at the center. Making it convenient so that they do not have to travel elsewhere after a hard day's work to complete their 10 hours of yearly mandated training. Thank you for also letting us use the family center for all of our other activities.

I really want to stress that here at Kid's Connection and Messiah Lutheran Church; we are working together to make this a great place for children to build a strong foundation for their future development, not only cognitively, but spiritually too.

I want to thank Pastor Rusty for his guidance and support, and also for meeting with our Voluntary Pre-K children every Monday morning. Thank you, John Renfro, for having our Voluntary Pre-K children for music every Thursday morning, and for getting the Gulf Coast Symphony involved with music lessons for the Kid's Connection children. Thanks to everyone involved in Vacation Bible School, it was great as always. The children loved it! You all did a great job with lessons, set up and snacks. We really appreciate Claudia Weiss for volunteering her time and great effort to read to our Voluntary Pre-K class and for doing such awesome art projects with them. A super great big thank you to my Advisory Board for their support to Kid's Connection and myself. I am so grateful to Pastor Rusty, June Buer, Jack Schleich, Shirley Egleston, Joyce Goers, Phyllis Reuschlein, Dave Scherer, Marge Scherer for meeting with me every month and helping me sort out and smooth out any rough edges. A big hand to June Buer for being such a great help during our Thanksgiving Luncheon, we have it all packed down and every year it gets better. Another great big hand to Dave and Marge Scherer for being there for Kid's Connection and me when the needs arose, for that pat on the shoulder, for that special hug, for that, "you can do it." I want to thank my staff for all their support and for their continuous work to make this center a joyful, fun filled and safe place for children to grow and learn. Most of all there is no ending to my gratitude to Our Heavenly Father, The Alpha, and The Omega, through whom all things are possible.

God Bless each and everyone!

Respectfully submitted,

Miss Carmen
Kid's Connection Director

KID'S CONNECTION PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2010

INCOME	\$ 420,240.00	\$ 337,577.93	\$ 396,306.00
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EXPENSE:	2009 Proposed	2009 Actual	2010 Proposed
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Advertising	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00
Bank Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 145.16	\$ 150.00
Bus Expenses	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 342.28	\$ 3,000.00
Bus Insurance	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,078.58	\$ 2,100.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 262.12	\$ 400.00
Conference/Conv.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00
Electricity	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,777.28	\$ 6,500.00
Equip.Furnishings	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,811.89	\$ 3,000.00
Equip. Maint.	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,611.53	\$ 3,000.00
Field Trips	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,286.91	\$ 2,400.00
Ins/Liab.Prop.Wind	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 5,907.42	\$ 5,907.00
Prepaid Ins.	\$ 2,782.58		
Medical Plan	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 3,575.88	\$ 8,500.00
Misc. dues/fees			
/administration	\$ 440.00	\$ 876.21	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,579.24	\$ 3,000.00
Paper Products	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,590.77	\$ 6,500.00
Payroll Service	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,593.77	\$ 1,600.00
Payroll Tax Expense	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 18,164.78	\$ 23,000.00
Pest Control	\$ 400.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 1,200.00
Playgrd Improvement	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 8,807.33	\$ 14,000.00
Postage	\$ 300.00	\$ 155.66	\$ 250.00
Salary Teachers	\$ 229,922.00	\$ 178,452.37	\$ 216,071.00
*Salary Director	\$ 40,045.00	\$ 40,045.14	\$ 40,045.00
*Salary Office/			
Administration	\$ 14,508.00	\$ 11,742.54	\$ 14,508.00
Salary Custodian/Bus	\$ 12,525.00	\$ 11,434.00	\$ 12,525.00
Snacks	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,446.66	\$ 4,500.00
Special Events	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 628.23	\$ 1,500.00
Refunds		(\$108.76)	
Teaching Materials	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,752.66	\$ 4,000.00
Telephone	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,089.13	\$ 1,400.00
Training	\$ 500.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 400.00
Uniforms	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Waste Pickup	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,950.00
Water Testing	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,230.00	\$ 4,500.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,303.79	\$ 6,000.00

Sub-Total	\$ 417,840.00	\$ 327,315.15	\$ 393,906.00
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Year End to Messiah		\$ 15,000.00	
Capital Reserve to Messiah	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00

Total	\$ 420,240.00	\$ 344,715.15	\$ 396,306.00
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Other information

Tuition Reserve	\$ 1,741.29	Gifts from Walmart	\$ 2,000.00
Office Repair Reserve	\$ 3,000.00	Gifts from Congregation	\$ 100.00
Playground Reserve	\$ 6,000.00	Fund Raising	\$ 365.00
Prepaid Ins. 2010-11	\$ 2,782.58		
Parent Credit Balances	\$ 702.66		

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT (Estimated)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. Membership, end of 2008	567	520
2. Members received during 2009		
A. By Baptism: Children (15 yrs and younger)	1	0
B. By Baptism: adults (16 yrs and older)	0	0
C. By affirmation of faith	12	12
D. By transfer from ELCA congregations	2	2
E. By transfer from other Lutheran congs.	3	3
F. From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
G. From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0
H. Total members received this year	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>
3. Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2009		
4. Total of #1 and 2H in BAPTIZED column	585	
Total of #1, 2H, and 3 in CONFIRMED column		537
5. Members removed during 2009		
A. By death	15	15
B. By transfer	4	
C. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	27	26
D. Total members removed this year	<u>46</u>	<u>45</u>
6. Membership, end of 2009	539	492
12. Communing members		
A. Confirmed who communed	344	
B. Unconfirmed who communed	24	
13. Confirmed members who communed and contributed ...	401	
14. Average weekly worship attendance	310	

