



New Member Guide

Messiah Lutheran Church & School

2015 N Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703 ~ 715-834-2865

www.eauclairemessiah.com

Most recent update: February 2022

Welcome! We hope that this New Member Guide will be a valuable source of information for you as you become more involved in our congregational life. We look forward to sharing the blessings of God's Word in our fellowship with you.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

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To be Included with this New Member Guide:

The "New User Guide to the CLC"
Messiah Membership Directory
Most Recent Messiah Yearbook
Messiah Constitution
Most Recent Photo Directory
Member Information Form (to return to
the church office)
"Supporting Our Ministry" brochure
and eGive information
A "Personal Evangelism Kit"



Pastor Bruce and
Paula Naumann

Pastor Caleb and
Jennifer Schaller

Pastor Paul and
Eileen Tiefel

Contact Information

Office: 715-834-2865

Pastor Bruce Naumann	715-864-3465 (Cell)
Pastor Paul Tiefel	715-829-2000 (Cell)
Pastor Caleb Schaller	715-577-6199 (Cell)
Mr. Seth Schaller – Principal	715-577-6276 (Cell)

Christian Grade School Teachers

Mrs. Rachel Rosendahl	Pre-K	Mr. Andrew Roehl	Grades 3-4
Mrs. Eileen Tiefel	Kindergarten	Mrs. Lori Wirth (Gr. 5-8)	Language Arts
Mrs. June Schmid	Grades 1-2	Mr. Nathan Buck	Grades 5-6
Mrs. Amy Mielke	Grades 2-3	Mr. Seth Schaller	Grades 7-8
Mrs. Marcie Schierenbeck (morning)	Grade 4	Mrs. Samantha Kelly	Music

Our History and Our Church Body, the CLC

Messiah Congregation has its roots in the days of the Synodical Conference, an organization composed of four individual Lutheran synods, including the Missouri, the Wisconsin, and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS, also known as the Little Norwegian). The devil always tries to add false teaching to the church with the goal that as a leaven or cancer the false teaching will spread to the heart of the Gospel.

The Synodical Conference had stood for decades as a faithful beacon of God's truth, despite a number of doctrinal attacks. The Missouri Synod began to falter in the 1940's and error was introduced and tolerated. In the 1950's as the Wisconsin Synod and the ELS reacted to this error, they themselves fell into error. In obedience to the Word of God (Rom. 16:17-18), individuals and congregations began to leave these erring synods and formed a new synod that took the name "Church of the Lutheran Confession" (CLC).



Messiah began to meet and organize in December of 1960 and was one of the founding congregations of the CLC. Messiah found land at 2015 N. Hastings Way and built a modest church. In 1963 the small group began a Christian day school. Over the years the LORD has graciously granted growth, both spiritually and in numbers. The congregation has grown from a handful to nearly 900 souls, the school from 24 students to about 145. The modest church was enlarged, two classrooms added, then three more classrooms, then a fellowship hall. Finally, in 2007, a new sanctuary was built, and the former sanctuary was remodeled to provide two more classrooms, a library, and two offices.

Our history is a testimony to the grace of God Who has been merciful to us sinners. All glory belongs to Him, for who we are today and for what can be seen on our property. What He has freely given to us, we seek to share freely with others.

For more information on our church body, the CLC, see the accompanying booklet entitled "A New User Guide to the CLC." See also our synod's website, www.clclutheran.org.

Worship at Messiah

Saturdays: Worship Service, 6:30 pm † “Sunday” School and Bible Class, 7:45 pm

Sundays: Worship Service, 9:00 am † Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:15 am

During the school year, Young Adults meet for Bible study after Sunday worship.

Midweek services during Advent and Lent, 1:00 & 6:30 pm

Other special services are held according to the schedule in our annual Yearbook.

The 2021 Yearbook will be available later in February.

Other helpful things to know:

- Communion is served on both the first and second weekends of the month.
- There are registration sheets for Communion in the Narthex. Either the week before or the day of Communion, please put a check or your initials next to your name if you plan to commune.
- The words for our order of service are projected in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer, you may use the Liturgy Folder, found in the pew, to follow along with a printed format.
- We have two hymnals. One is “The Lutheran Hymnal” (red), with hymns 1 through 660. The other is the “Worship Supplement 2000” (tan), with hymns 701 through 800.
- If there is inclement weather and services are canceled, there will be a notice on Messiah’s website, www.eauclairemessiah.com, and an email notification through *Messiah News & Needs* (see below). Local radio stations will also be notified. If you prefer, you can be contacted by phone in the event of a weather cancellation (contact the church office or a pastor).

Bible Studies

There are many opportunities for growth in God’s Word and fellowship with other Messiah members:

- Our weekend Bible studies, which follow the Saturday and Sunday worship services.
- Youth Bible study (mainly high school age), which follows the Sunday worship service.
- The “Messiah Home Bible Studies” program offers small-group study and fellowship in the homes of our members in the Eau Claire area. See the weekly bulletin for information about when and where these groups meet.
- The “Messiah Mutual Support Group” is made up of Messiah members who have been in successful recovery from substance or behavioral addictions, as well as those who are now struggling. Contact Pastor Naumann for more information. You may also see an online description of what this group is about, at www.tinyurl.com/mmsg-intro.
- From time to time there are special seminars, workshops, retreats, and other opportunities for Christian growth. These will be announced in the weekly bulletin.

Staying in Touch

- You will be assigned a church mailbox, found in the narthex (that is, the church foyer). You will find the monthly calendar there, special announcements, and other miscellaneous information. You may also use the church mailboxes for correspondence with other members, such as invitations and cards. Please pick up items from your church mailbox each time you attend worship.
- If you happen to miss worship, you may view our services via live stream at 9 am on Sunday morning. Previously recorded services are also online at www.eauclairemessiah.com – click the “Online Worship” button. The weekly bulletin and church calendar are also available on the site.
- Upcoming events, devotional articles, and other information are posted on Messiah’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EauClaireMessiah.
- Messiah has a weekly email subscription service, called *Messiah News and Needs*. Each Thursday an email is sent to subscribers that includes a prayer list, as well as notices including upcoming volunteer needs. A sample can be seen at: tinyurl.com/nn-sample. Please subscribe to this service with the online form at: tinyurl.com/nn-subscribe or by contacting Pastor Naumann.
- Our church body’s monthly magazine is *The Lutheran Spokesman*. All members are automatically subscribed. We also distribute *Daily Rest*. This is a quarterly collection of brief daily devotions which are centered on God’s Word. Please talk to our church secretary or one of the pastors about subscribing.
- Older gentlemen of the congregation meet weekly at Perkins Restaurant for breakfast and camaraderie. This is normally on Tuesdays at 9:00 am; check the weekly bulletin to confirm.

Personalized Services

Messiah’s pastors provide individual spiritual counseling for a variety of needs. They have extensive experience using God’s Word to help resolve marital and family conflicts, as well as to help deal with substance abuse or other problems. If you are in need of assistance, one of them will be happy to meet with you at church or in your home. Private Communion is always available for those who need added strengthening of faith. If you or a loved one are hospitalized or are experiencing some other crisis, please do call one of Messiah’s pastors.

Messiah Lutheran School

Messiah is committed to Christian education. Our grade school enrolls students from Pre-K through 8th grade. Our current enrollment is about 130 students, who are taught by 6 full time and 4 part time teachers. We are blessed to be able to offer this quality, Christ-centered education without charging tuition. How is that possible? See the brochure in our narthex kiosk entitled “*How Can We Do That?*” You may see it online at this address: www.tinyurl.com/how-can-we-do-that.

For more information on Messiah Lutheran School, see the school website: www.messiahschool.org.

Other Youth Opportunities

There are a variety of learning and Christian togetherness opportunities for Messiah's youth:

- *Weekly Sunday school (PreK through 8) and Sunday youth Bible study.*
- Summer Vacation Bible School, held in two sessions (June and August).
- Messiah Youth Group activities: www.facebook.com/groups/ecmessiahyouthgroup.
- Youth **STEAM** Club (Science, Engineering, Art, Math) – contact Lawrence Bade at lbsbade@gmail.com or (612) 963-5374.
- Various summer camps and activities – contact a pastor for more information.

Service Opportunities

There are many ways to serve the LORD in our congregation! We hope that you will take the initiative to get involved in volunteer service in order to help share God's Word:

- Help with our various outreach activities – contact Outreach Chairman Josh Gurgel at gurgeljm@hotmail.com or (715) 379-7917 (cell).
- Become an usher – men, please contact Tom Joos at tjoos@charter.net or (715) 529-3432.
- Help with the various services that the “Ladies of Messiah” provide – contact Amanda Hestiken at amanda.hestekin@gmail.com.
- Become a service greeter - contact Susan Meyer at vcnjl66@gmail.com or (414) 533-1651.
- Become a Sunday School teacher - contact Blane Knutson at blanek3691@gmail.com or (715) 581-4724.
- Become a Messiah School volunteer for correcting papers and other projects – contact Principal Seth Schaller at seth.schaller@ecmessiah.org or (715) 577-6276.
- Help with Youth Group planning and events - contact Anne Vaver at avaver0699@gmail.com or (715) 456-3418.
- Help with VBS teaching, crafts, etc. - contact Pastor Naumann or Pastor Schaller.
- Help with God's Kids Bible Camp - contact Anne Vaver at avaver0699@gmail.com or (715) 456-3418.
- Help with recording the worship service video - contact Matt Kelly at yak467@yahoo.com or (715) 497-4222.
- Help with display of the worship service projection - contact Jon Sandeen at jonathan.sandeen@charter.net or (701) 306-3367.
- Help with the setup of our Communion service – contact Pastor Naumann.
- Help with visiting our shut-in members – contact Pastor Naumann or Pastor Tiefel.
- Help with cleaning and maintaining our church property – a church workday is typically held on the last Saturday of each month. You may also contact Jerry LeDuc at jerleduc@charter.net or (715) 379-5020 (cell).

How Messiah Organizes its Work

Jesus is the Head of His Church: All matters on which the verbally inspired Scriptures speak will be decided by the Word of God.

Messiah's Voters are made up of all male communicant members who are at least 18 years of age, who request voting membership, and agree to function under the Constitution. While decision-making authority in smaller matters is delegated by the Voters to officers, Boards, and Committees, the Voters have final authority over all congregational decisions.

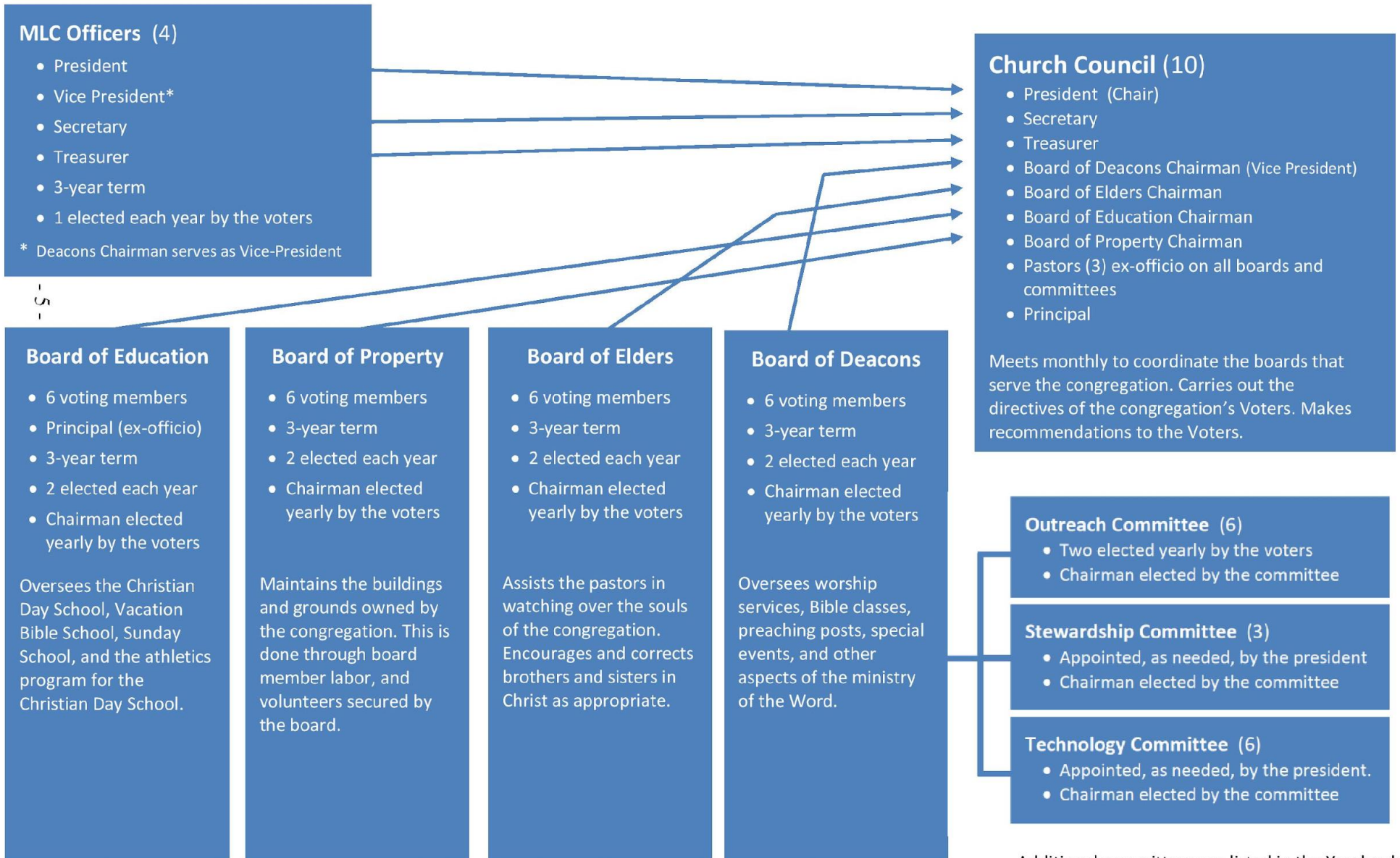
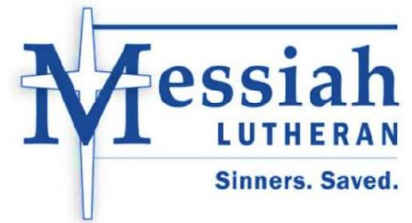


Diagram arranged by Pastor Caleb Schaller according to the Messiah Constitution – updated 07/26/2019

Additional committees are listed in the Yearbook. Copies can be found in the narthex.

Messiah Board and Committee Contacts - 2022

Church Council

Coordinates the boards that serve the congregation, and carries out the directives of the congregation's Voters. Makes recommendations to the Voters. Consists of a president, secretary, treasurer, the pastors, the principal of the school, and the chairmen of the following boards: Elders, Deacons, Education, and Property.

President: Gerald Oster • gnaoster@gmail.com • 715-441-7293 (cell)



Board of Elders

Assists the pastors in watching over the souls of the congregation. Seeks out and encourages brothers and sisters in Christ as needed.

Elders Chairman: Ross Roehl • ross.roehl@ilc.edu
• 715-864-1764 (cell)



Board of Deacons

Oversees worship services, Bible classes, preaching posts, and other aspects of the ministry of the Word. Where the Elders focus on individual soul care, the Deacons focus on groups.

Deacons Chairman: Steve Naumann • stevenaumann@live.com
• 715-210-8734 (cell)



Board of Education

Oversees the Christian Day School, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and the athletics program for the Christian Day School.

Education Chairman: Nathan Gurgel • ncgurgel@gmail.com
• 414-377-8141 (cell)



Board of Property

Maintains the buildings and grounds owned by the congregation. This is done through board member labor, and volunteers secured by the board.

Property Chairman: Jerry LeDuc • jerleduc@charter.net
• 715-379-5020 (cell)



Outreach Committee

Seeks to introduce people of our community to their Savior. Makes our church known in the community and broadcasts the Gospel through public events, flier distribution, evangelism workshops, and the church's online social media platforms.

Outreach Chairman: Josh Gurgel • gurgelim@hotmail.com
• 715-379-7917 (cell)



Stewardship Committee

Through the study of God's Word, seeks to educate and encourage our members in the God-pleasing stewardship of their time, talents, and earthly possessions. Prepares regular bulletin inserts, special offering envelopes and provides devotional materials to assist our members and their families.

Stewardship Chairman: Dennis Oster • dcoster620@gmail.com
• 715-839-0152 (home)



Technology Committee

Maintains the audio/visual equipment for worship and Bible class, computer networking, EauClaireMessiah.com, and various other technological aspects of the ministry. The committee is assisted by teacher Mr. Paul Tiefel III, who maintains the majority of the school's technological equipment.

Technology Chairman: Matt Kelly • yak467@yahoo.com
• 715-497-4222 (cell)



Supporting Messiah

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:7-8)

There are a number of ways to offer your gifts and talents to help with the Lord’s work here at Messiah. Our fellowship together in worship and other activities helps to build each other up in God’s Word. The “service opportunities” listed on page 4 describe many ways that you can use your time and personal talents to further the kingdom of God.

Another way that we work together for the Lord is through our monetary offerings. These contributions pay for the support of our pastors and teachers, as well as all the other necessary expenses that we have to operate our church and school. We also contribute toward the work of our church body, the CLC.

You may wish to use our offering envelope system for regular giving. We also have electronic giving available. Please see the tri-fold brochure entitled “Supporting Our Ministry through Your Offerings,” as well as the eGive electronic giving information – both are included in this packet. Our Financial Secretary, Dennis Oster, is the person to contact to make these arrangements. You may reach him at dcoster620@gmail.com or (715) 839-0152.

Personal Evangelism

“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Eph. 4:11-12)

As a “saint,” that is, a sinner who has been fully forgiven through Christ, your church membership is now equipping you for your life’s most important work. That work is being a witness to others about God’s grace in Christ.

While we have many organized outreach activities here at Messiah, the most important and fruitful work is done by our members, as they personally share the Good News of Christ crucified with family, friends, and neighbors. In order to help get you started (or keep you going), we’re including in this packet a “personal evangelism kit.” Included in each kit are:

- The Gospel of Mark
- A "God So Loved the World" tract
- A booklet entitled *"Bible-centered Devotions for the Person who Wants to Know More about God and Life with God,"* and
- A sheet of information about Messiah Lutheran Church.

Please become familiar with this kit, and share one or more with a friend or neighbor. Pray for opportunities to share your faith, and look for them – God will provide! If you then have contacts who would like to know more, please get them in touch with one of our pastors. God bless your service to Him, and our fellowship with each other!