

## **Synopsis for Messiah Lutheran Church**

Messiah Lutheran church is located in the heart of the Westwood neighbourhood in west Winnipeg. We began as a congregation in 1964 as a mission of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). We were officially organized in 1965 and built our current building in 1967.

Worship is central to our congregation, and we engage all generations in worship and leadership. Music and visual art are important to us. We commune every Sunday. We also worship on Ash Wednesday, midweek Lenten Services, Holy Week (not Saturday), Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Epiphany. We practice Communion of the Baptized. We have an active Sunday school and vibrant Youth Group with members attending the CLAY Youth Gatherings.

We build community within the church with a coffee and snack following every worship service. We have potluck meals and gather for special events. Messiah Lutheran Women meet monthly.

Messiah is also a congregation that reaches out into the community. We share our building (through a leasing agreement) with the congregation of St. Chad's Anglican. We offer a one-week Vacation Bible School every July. We support First Lutheran Food Bank and suppers at Lutheran Urban Ministry. We also support women's shelters and soup kitchens. Various groups use our facility including: Gambler's Anonymous, St. James Assiniboia Parent/Child Coalition, Girl Guides, St. James Art Group, and NorWest Community Co-op.

We recognize that we could be more involved in the community. We have identified a need for daycare, youth services and affordable recreation, and helping to address Winnipeg's ongoing meth crisis.

Like many congregations we are anxious about an aging congregation, limited financial resources, and a small volunteer base. We are unsure how be the church in a new reality where we can't always do things the way we have before.

Our staff includes a Pastor-full time; Music Director-part time; Christian Education Coordinator -part time; Janitors -part time. All other functions are carried out by members volunteering their time.

The top 5 Areas of Ministry to prioritize in the next 1-5 years:

1. Worship Leadership
2. Children's Ministry
3. Ministry for Youth and Young Adults
4. Preaching
5. Musical + Artistic

Interested persons may request detailed Congregational Profiles and the procedure for call process in the MNO Synod from:

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