

## Messiah Discernment Long Form Survey Results - April 2017

Total number of responses: 49

Services attended by participants:

Sat. 5pm: 25.5%/Sun. 8:30am: 30.6%/Sun. 9:45am: 53.1%/Sun. 10am: 4.1%

### What is your favorite ministry of Messiah?

Worship Service

Theology on Tap, Sunday School

New to congregation, so it is worship.

The Pastor's do such a good job to welcome everyone.

So much good is being done..our youth program is so important

Music

Outreach to the youth in need.

Intern Mary and Pastor Peter

Godly Play, Chaos, Youth activities

Educational opportunities

flip

flip

Programs for kids.

To have the church welcome "pastors in training"

Theology on Tap

seminary interns

Choir--Lenten Services

Bible teaching classes

TOT

1 Mile Mission

Worship services

All of the small group ministries

Sunday service...they energize me for the week.

Stephen Ministry - serves such needed individual ministry to those among us who are often forgotten.

Music and going to 830am service

Stephen Ministry

Preschool

Stephen Ministry

Theology on Tap , Bible & book studies

1 mile mission

Helping school children

Seeds of faith, food on the fourth, TOT, and the internship program

Communion.

Nothing specifically ... all seem to be going well using the same people

All of them as they serve many ages. Stephen

food banks

Music, TOT, Pre-school.... yup, it's a three way tie.

Outreach food/4th & schools

Sunday services/music

One mile mission. I also truly and deeply appreciate the celebration of vets at Messiah.

stephen ministry

Preschool & VBS

Food on the Fourth

Christ Bearers

## **What are your hopes for Messiah over the next 5 years?**

That Messiah stays viable.

An increase in younger family membership, a vibrant youth group for teens

Make sure we are smart with money and soul's

new campus and fix up our basement!!

That it continue its mission to feeding and teaching

that membership be sustained

Growth in the congregation and continued progress with the North County expansion.

to weather the upcoming economic conditions

Unity and continued outreach

That we expand our outreach ministries to aid our neighbors in need.

That it would continue to be a place where ministry happens for people of all ages and there is something for everyone.

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I worry about succession planning. Church is reliant on key people without backup plans.

Continued focus on ministry to the community as it is located

Grow the under 40 age group

that we have more bible studies and we actually teach on the entire bible

To grow, especially in North county.

Continue activities that all ages can share

That it continues to serve our area, our youth and teens, our sick and elderly, and teaches Bible study

classes to give people a deeper understanding of the Word of God.

attracting and keep young families

To thrive

Continue and expand ministries for the needy.

To secure property for north county and secure a partnership to create an expansive and unconventional way to follow Jesus and glorify God.

To maintain a welcoming environment staffed by enthusiastic and inspiring leaders

Continues to reach out with love when asked, needed, and where members see a need.

Growth in membership leading to more participation in ministries.

Stay on the path we are and secure enough money to finish the plans we have for OUR church

To be present

Continue to serve our membership while continuing growth. Fiscal responsibility is very important with growth goals.

That more young families will join

To continue to grow as a vibrant, friendly and welcoming church. To welcome all believers of diverse backgrounds.

Some change in north county and needed repairs in hazel dell

To have dynamic programs that continue to grow younger member families

TBD. Thoughts of how I am value-added to Messiah's mission, and in turn, how Messiah's evolution supports my spiritual & personal needs are in progress.

That new people can be assimilated within the church's culture and can be called upon to serve, working hand-in-hand

Go for North co. And repair Hazel Dell

To continue as the welcoming environment it now has

1.) Figure out what it takes to get missing generations back to Church; 2.) More teaching about social issues (Poverty, immigration, race, gender issues, justice for all of our country's citizens, etc.) and learning what the response of God's Children should be to these issues; 3.) Investigate the possibility of having a dedicated space for a Branch Campus at the new casino in Ridgefield. Imagine the possibilities and all of the good work that could be done.

North county campus to grow in membership and increased mission to serve North county and prove with GOD'S help to expand at that time.

Reenergize attendance at services and take care of our building.

That Messiah continues to find ways to reach out as a community in Christ to our neighbors in need. to reach more people for christ

Expand outreach. Become more contemporary, services, confirmation, activities.

My hopes are that Messiah can find examples in other Lutheran Churches like Rejoice! in Omaha, NE where the population is growing with a diverse millennial population. Learn from what others are doing well!!

Expanding our 3 mission statement's efforts

To stay focused on serving our community and our world with the One Mile Mission, Lutheran World Relief quilts, Tuesday morning breakfast for high schoolers, our wonderful preschool and Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, mission projects such as packets for the homeless, WHO, quilts for those baptized, Stephen Ministry, Christ Bearers, continuing to be educated through ongoing bible studies, caring for our physical church building and all its needs such as new roof, taking care of water leaks, updating the downstairs dining room and kitchen, as well as upstairs kitchen, updating all classrooms as needed, ongoing music ministry, Book Club (Kathy's) and Peter's Tuesday morning breakfast group, continuing with intern program etc. We need to improve our volunteer program, perhaps hiring a part time volunteer coordinator to help those who are uninvolved in the work of Messiah to join in and become a more intimate part of our church by working together in whatever capacity that meets their passion. That is the way members get to know one another and become a loving part of the Messiah family.

## How does a presence in North County extend Messiah's mission?

None

NC is growing in population; it would be helpful for Messiah to be able to grow in this area as the area itself grows

Gives options to more people.

It makes sense to do it now.

Reaching more people with an amazing worship experience...and so many community opportunities

Increases the impact of the Hazel Dell ministry

Offers another location for followers to receive the message of our Church.

I'm not sure that it does at this time.

Perhaps a gathering place to reach out to the community.

It brings our culture and passion for doing God's work to other parts of the community.

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I do not believe there is demand for a second location nor the potential congregation to fiscally support it. I have seen nothing to contradict my first point and I am unwilling to fiscally support the second.

Spreads Christ's message

It doesn't if you don't reach people

It increases the ability to extend ministries like the One Mile Mission.

Brings more people and their gifts to the "body"

After so many years of trying to attract a strong number of members for a second permanent site, I do not see much success there. When I was involved in Community Bible Study (CBS) here in Vancouver in early 2000's, the CBS rules stated that our group could not continue if there were not at least 50 full time attending members by the end of our second year. At that point we had to end the official class and function as a satellite group only. I do not believe in the adage, if you build it they will come. Dreams are wonderful, but at some point a reality check is also necessary.

if it meets a need, then that's important.

Depends on Messiah's mission.

I am not sure it does

It gives us another jumping off point, and an opportunity to involve more people in our ministries.

See above

It provides a church in an area of growth

Makes it convenient for people north of town, provides an option for different styles of worship.

Not sure.

It shows we are doing God's work by reaching out..

Need additional \$20,000 / month for a start and not starve existing mission

Offer more opportunity to more people

This is a developing, growing area of Clark County with many young families

Messiah's presence in North County is a welcome environment for people who are searching for a church home.

I don't think it goes with the teaching mission

I think it is needed

It would extend the best that Messiah has to offer to a new neighborhood

By potentially filling a need for child care and creating membership opportunities.

reaching and teaching is a mission that we need to embrace and with a presence in NC, we can begin to extend that mission and perhaps succeed in establishing a model of inclusion and acceptance of new and even different people

Through God's will

Outreach to another population

Anything that spreads the Gospel and God's Love is all good.

Extended mission to North county

Area

There is an unserved area that needs to be taken care.

I think it serves a community that desires a smaller more intimate way of worship  
ridgefield is growing... perhaps a good time to grow God's presence there

A presence through outreach extends a mission to share God's love, making a difference in peoples lives.  
This does not necessarily mean bringing more to God's house and His table(new members) but rather  
impacting them in a way that they someday may look to the church for spiritual growth.

I think we can meet needs of people coming to the new casino.

I'm not sure that it does. In fact, we may be stretching ourselves too thin to be effective in a positive way if  
we move forward with a building there. I think our best work is to continue to love our neighbors and  
friends, from Ridgefield or anywhere in the area, and lovingly invite them to come to Messiah HD, just as  
many others come from afar to attend our church now.

### **What impact do you think a dedicated space would have on Messiah's ministry in North County?**

We could loose both North County and Hazel Dell

People would recognize Messiah is there to stay and become part of the community

I don't know. Young people don't seem as tied to "owning" a space but more interested in "doing".

I think a bigger footprint will lead to more people knowing the Lord and Messiah.

Huge....there are sooooo many new houses out there!!!

It would likely improve and expand the ministry

A great impact. A dedicated space is necessary for the local community to believe we are here to stay. In order to grow roots, we need to be planted!

I'm unsure if that will make a difference. The congregation hasn't grown. It doesn't make sense to me to put more money into this location.

Not sure it would have any impact.

It would give us a more permanent presence in Ridgefield.

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I think you can only be in temporary space for so long and then your core group has to find permanent home.

My thoughts are of no value. My concerns are as follows: Land costs? Development costs? Construction costs? Debt accrued in these processes.

Long term commitment of time, resources, costs to make it work

there was a dedicated space when this project started and that didn't seem to help.

To have a better worship space and space for mid-week functions would help North County grow. A dedicated space would be more visible to the community.

It would give Messiah a permanent home and indicate that we are not there temporarily.

Would be key to stabilizing the presence

I am not sure it will have a big impact when you take into account the people to cost ratio.

It might be seen as a permanent part of North County. However church buildings do not necessarily attract people. Look at all the big churches that once had vibrant congregations and are now mostly empty.

Definitely beneficial

It would draw more people in

It would have visibility and convenience.

Growth, permanence, a firm foundation for stretching ourselves into the world.

It could possibly draw more attendees and members

A building provides a place to meet, is recognizable and locatable.

So far have not seen or heard any specific evidence that convinces me a dedicated space is needed.

None

Need and support for larger budget

Having a dedicated space would bring a permanent presence but would also come with great cost

I think a full-time (or part-time) pastor on site is as important as a dedicated space.

A dedicated space for Messiah's ministry in the North County area would give a sense of permanence to the congregation. A dedicated building may not look like a traditional church and could be a multi-use facility for a day care, pre school as well as elder care or?

It would grow to serve more of Gods people

it would firm up Messiah's identity and create the opportunity to build a preschool program. Don't give up on the idea of a multi generational site with senior housing.

Possibly reduce participation of North County members at Hazel Dell. Unless North County membership & participation increase, there will likely be more requests for donations & assistance from Hazel Dell attendees to support their efforts.

Having a place to call 'their church' is important and wherever people worship tends to be 'their church'; this is an important aspect of the church experience, even if it begins as a small store front.

More than people realize if preschool is attached

the idea of "home" is always important

With a fixed space comes fixed costs and other problems (staffing, hours, etc.)

To better serve and reach out our mission to North county.

Area residences would recognize a physical presence as a church.

Well it will change that intimacy that people might appreciate but it could open the door to things such as a preschool, meeting spaces for groups like AA.

if there is not a financial burden to overcome, it would make way for expanded ministries

A traditional church space may not draw people in, a large debt to current congregation may send current members away. A family oriented space to meet the needs of the community, such as a place for teens to meet, tutoring, preschool, childcare, family friendly concerts, parenting classes, book drives, or other events could have a tremendous impact on a community that does not offer such supports.

Ability to meet during the week, at night, for fellowship. Ability to have a children's program - Godly Play at NCC!

I doubt it would have much impact, other than offering a permanent church home to the few who attend at the golf course site. I think the most impact would be a substantial financial commitment for many years that we are unable to bear. I doubt that providing a church building would draw many people who have not been drawn to the two sites we have had. There are other churches in the greater north county area that are available now (Battle Ground, as an example). We need to work on being more welcoming to those in outlying areas to our HD church.

### **What are your primary concerns about developing a dedicated site for North County?**

The overextension of the financial abilities of Hazel Dell and cause a burn-out of those providing services to both Hazel Dell & North County

Can our congregation afford it

Cost vs. Benefits.

If we wait to long it will only get more expensive, and not the best location.

I trust in our pastors and advisers and the congregation. Things are done thoughtfully and prayerfully. It will be good. God is with us!

Would like to have the entire plan laid out before I develop concerns

That resources are diminished, attentions diverted

I don't have any concerns, just excitement about an expansion for Messiah.

the ongoing cost commitment if the North County congregation is unable to support it

I think it should've shown growth before putting more resources toward the location. I think it would be smarter to pull out of North County and use the finances elsewhere.

Expensive costs. Not sure a wise investment for something that shows no growth.

None

None

Budgetary

Have all the existing congregations been visited in that area? Are the churches overflowing with members and are those in the congregations asking for the presence of a Lutheran church? Our facility RARELY is overflowing with congregants. I am concerned that money devoted to a North County facility would limit the upkeep of the current facility (witness the request for donations to correct problems related to the flooded nursery that occurred recently). The interior of our sanctuary is VERY dated and gloomy. It could be updated and freshened and be more appealing.

In summation, my Webster's defines "discernment" as follows: "the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure". I do not have that ability. I do not think many folks do. I fear as a congregation we are showing signs of "group think" and that can lead to problems.

Doug Stokesberry

Building a congregation large enough to support the undertaking.

I think maybe we need to focus on the hazel dell campus and bring more diversity in that congregation.

Do it now before prices continue to go up.

Money

There are already 17 churches in the Ridgefield area, a population of 17,000+. Even if the population doubles, it is still a small community. Of all the families I know in that area, none of them go to church and do not intend to, so it makes me wonder about our whole effort !

Will it bog down the present ministry in Hazel Dell. When there is a Missouri Synod congregation in the same area in Ridgefield, are we sure we're not both going to be less impactful in the region.

Dilution of time and energy by Messiah members. It's better if Messiah is a sponsor rather than it being a literal church extension. The goal should be a self-sustaining independent church rather than a branch. resources--both financial and manpower

COST! Also staffing. I don't want to see our ministry staff spread too thin.

That some of our members don't see this as part of the great commission

The expense and overstretching of current staff capabilities

i like being comfortable in hazel dell.

A financial risk that may not be necessary; would prefer to see any additional monies be spent on staff to coordinate and run ministries wherever they might be in Clark County.

Using our money for them and not finishing our own church concerns

Seekers not willing to support with time, talent or money.

My concern would be if the NCC could support itself financially. We have a strong congregation as it is and I wouldn't want to see us overextending ourselves to start & support a new congregation.  
The cost (or indebtedness) for a very small worshipping group

Obviously the cost is a concern and whether there will be a continued growth to sustain the commitment.  
The membership does not reflect how much money is being spent to develop a North County site.

The cost and is it really what God is telling us to do

Financing and determining appropriate staffing

The arduous decision making process leads me to believe it is not a good idea. The inability to formalize a sound business plan shows me it is not a good idea. Most entrepreneurial efforts fail when they spread their resources too thin and stretch beyond their skill set, which seems the case here.

Competition versus co-operation between sites (hopefully unlikely).

... that the people who come to NC won't be assimilated within the whole Messiah experience. Making a show by including those who used to belong to the HD campus is one thing, but how about the people who are new to NC or who are new to belonging to any church? They need to be incorporated into the overall culture of the church, included in all aspects of church leadership and service and when combined opportunities are provided, they need to be made a part of the event (serving, leading, etc.). This could potentially be one of the more difficult parts of the process and would involve a concentrated effort by everyone in changing the culture (not the teachings) of the whole church.

Prospect for any new minister upon the retirement of current ministry if soon....but with God being in charge this is not more than a mortal thought

Financial - ability to fund such a project w/o hurting our Vancouver campus

Limiting the flexibility of the folks at this site.

I don't think we have much support from Hazel Dell and North county campus can not do it alone now. I think North county needs to grow in membership and prove itself to Hazel Dell before \$'s are spent.

Taking away from the needs of Hazel Dell Congregation and buildings.

Trying to sustain both campuses well without taking away from each other to do it.

finances and man power

The Hazel Dell church and preschool will not get the attention it needs....maintenance, supplies, staff development, pay increases, staff benefits package(do we adequately take care of those under our own roof), current missions not able to meet full potential due to lack of energy and funding.

I don't want to see our church go greatly in debt. We don't need a church building in NCC, just a multipurpose room(s).

That it would be an enormous expense that our church and any who join in from north county could not continue to assume. We have heard from our interns that a church building is not a draw for millennials for their future. These are important and valid concerns that we have been bringing before the Lord and we need to continue to listen to His wise direction.