

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Attendance:** **Present:** Breanna Dauphinee; Jeff Gerstenberger; Jim Hartmann; Andy Mitchell; Laurie Simonson; Mark Sutliff; Sheri Treadwell; Amy Trichanh; Paul Williams

**Absent:** Pastor Aileen Robbins

**Devotions and Prayer:** **Leader:** Jim Hartmann

**Themes:** Jim reflected on upcoming daylight savings time, and the idea of light, and the celebration of the “extra hour” of light.

**Agenda Review:**

- Jeff testing a theory and invited all council members to unmute themselves for the duration of the meeting.
- Jim requested that we discuss the proceeds of the pancake supper.
- Andy requested to share some information about accounting ‘principles’ but will be put off until the April meeting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- 2/4/24, 2/8/24, 2/6/25
- All minutes accepted as written

**Financial Reports:**

- While February spending was high and we had a \$7,000 deficit for the month. Generous giving in January though leaves us about \$4,000 ahead year-to-date.
- Future payments from Synod and accrued interest from CDs don’t appear as income yet.
- A brief discussion was held in regard to what happens if we go over budget on the utility bill after a bit of extra cold.
- Andy shared a video in regards to the frigid cold.  
<https://youtu.be/kR6lQAFvhq0?si=sxzdTHqqP1715nTY>

**Ministry Team Reports:** **Outreach**

- Not much to report. The team is meeting next week.
- Cathy’s new PC has been set up and will be completely set up in the next few weeks.
- RIT dinner and Crop hunger walk are coming up.
- Jeff inquired if anyone on the team may be interested in taking over the Outreach Council role.
- Jeff talked to Reggie about “Pool Grants” received from Foodlink, which allows us to purchase food for cheap. Funding for these grants for this fiscal year (until July) is used up. Reggie shared concern, but not alarm. There is about \$20,000 in the Food Pantry with about \$4,000-\$5,000 a month spent. Reggie doesn’t think Council should take action at this time but should be mindful if the account(s) drop below a certain point (~\$9,000). Mark will bring up at the next Outreach meeting to see if they can

**Meeting Minutes Submitted By:** Breanna Dauphinee

**Date:** 03/06/2025 **Time:** 08:33 p.m.

come up with any fundraisers.

**Time and Talent Engagement:**

- Share your treasures reflection was used instead of a time and talents form during stewardship drive.
- Was there anything we received this year in new people interested in joining ministry teams?
- There were 8-9 replies to the new format.
- A form isn't necessarily the best way to grow engagement, maybe a party would work better?? 5/4 is a Stewardship treasures potluck.

**Other Business:**

**Election of Lisa Klima to Council (Adult Faith Formation):**

- Mentioned at our last meeting.
- Only 2 more Stephen Ministry Trainings left, and she will begin joining us at the next Council meeting.
- Amy made a motion to elect Lisa to Council, and Laurie seconded the motion. All present Council members in favor.

**2025 Congregation Calendar:**

- Adding things like sanctuary cleaning in the Fall and in the Spring, and other Property (or ministry) events.
- Paul mentioned that we have more access to a printed calendar to be used or seen in the church. It would be good to reach out to Cathy to have more events added to the calendar, and what is needed.
- The idea of this would be to have more non regular events be put in the calendar for people to review. Is there a way to do a "highlighted events" list being regularly shared in things like the herald or the bulletin. We need something that will "pop out" or be put on different colored paper.
- It's hard to track things in the announcements when the 11x17 is full completely on both sides.
- What's the effectiveness of the calendar in the herald when it's the same each month? Is it possible to have a conversation with the newsletter team to have that changed to a "calendar" or "list" of events.
- Food distribution should be included.
- There is interest in having a "Rolling Calendar" posted in the narthex.
- Jeff suggested a Google doc where Council members are responsible for adding things to it. AND each week, Cathy can organize by date, print, and hang up.
- **NEXT STEPS:** Paul is looking for easel and white board, Laurie will try to talk to communications team to discuss current calendar.

**Pride / LGBTQIA Flag:**

- Waiting to hear about a possibility of doing it until there is confirmation on location.
- Mark had the idea of painting a 8x10 sheet of wood that could be bolted to the building.
- There was a suggestion for smaller banners on light poles (like

villages have on their main streets for events (3 Foot by 2 Foot) in the parking lot. This could work if there were numerous banners. There are Pride flags available to be hung in this way. This may be the most cost effective and secure way to get our message across.

- Paul suggested trying one before we invest, time money, and effort to mount the flags.
- Jim shared some banner Ideas:  
<https://outreach.com/Products/Church-Banners/Upload-Your-Design-32532.aspx>
- It would be fiscally responsible having only 1 banner hung on each light pole.
- Is there a Town of Greece policy on banners/ flags? Not that we know of.
- Subcommittee for a proposals and cost. Sheri, Mark, and Bree will work together. Jim is willing to ask for permission to use his work vehicle for a few hours.

#### **Mission & Vision Statement Review:**

- **Mission Statement:** still relevant; still liked; could Willie turn it into a jingle “The Messiah Fight Song”; could we make it more regularly placed in worship (e.g., at dismissal); Worship team should consider how to implement into worship.
- **Vision Statement:** desire for more detailed information about inclusion; seems more ‘lukewarm’ considering where we are in the world.

#### **Pancake Dinner Proceeds:**

- In the past, the pancake dinner would pay for the Easter breakfast, and eventually transitioned to being a fundraiser for the Youth Gathering.
- Jim was considering earmarking the funds for Funeral Receptions Fund (Hospitality) account. Since the beginning of the meeting, Jim was thinking of saving the \$660 and deciding at a different time. Mark and Sheri agree with hanging onto it until a need arises. Andy suggested a possible “Ed Orlando Memorial Fund”. Because there was a \$250 Thrivent grant specifying the youth gathering, it would be most appropriate putting the proceeds in the youth gathering fund and consider changing the process in the future.

**Next Meeting:** April 10, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Extended Report:** Pastor Aileen | **Devotions and Prayer:** Mark

**Closing Prayer:** Jim Hartmann