

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes**

April 10, 2025, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

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

Absent: Amy Trichanh

Devotions and Prayer: **Leader:** Mark Sutliff
Themes: Reflections on happiness in the ability to help, using our passions.

Agenda Review:

- ADDITIONS: Pancake supper (finance section); proposal for a sign from John Corman (Other Business).

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- May 9, July 25, March 6
- Approved/ accepted as is.

Financial Reports: Pancake Supper:

- Would be hard to create a new fund and wouldn't make sense under our current structure.
- Funding can be designated to a specific task/ project.
- Suggested to name the dinner in honor of someone. It's important to strategically consider before deciding. It's something we should reapproach before the next pancake supper.

March 2025 Reports

- A PowerPoint was shared including this month's finance report.
- Andy asked if there were any questions.
- 1ST quarter payment from the Synod has not yet been received. The Synod's stance is to provide payment after services are rendered.
- The synod has mentioned that 4th quarter payments will happen in December instead of January while being mindful of year end bookkeeping needs.
- In his monthly updates going forward, Andy will be including Julie Gerstenberger's (Congregation Treasurer) comments in his meeting emails.

Foundational Concepts for Financial Oversight

- Financial Oversight is a collective responsibility of the Council.
- A PowerPoint slide with a Venn Diagram was shared and was explained.
- There is a change in the way we're paying our bills. According to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, we will be paying our bills **ON** (or near) the due date, instead of as soon as we receive the bill.
- **In our in-person meeting**, Andy would like to discuss the audits/ financial oversight team and reading the 3 monthly

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee

Date: 04/10/2025 **Time:** 08:31 p.m.

financial reports.

- Julie is working to move everything online for bill paying with printed checks and postage as a last step option.

Food Pantry:

- A PowerPoint Slide was shared with the grants received so far this year.
- Information regarding Food Link support and funding was discussed especially with the excessive cuts in funding.
- Food Link is looking into using resources from Medicaid to find support of their work / mission.
- There was a question to the impact of monetary resources and what is impacting funding. These cuts seem to be more political in nature.
- Andy is looking for insight regarding his next herald article. He would like to add information / a request for additional support to the food pantry in his next article. Council is supportive of this thought process.

Ministry Team Reports: Pastor Aileen “Stump the Pastor”:

- **How Assertive should Pastor be, specifically regarding if someone/ a family was in crisis:** Not really a hesitation to reach out if something is overheard but isn't forceful. It was agreed by council to not be forceful about a time, but rather offer a sympathetic response. Pastor's natural response is "I've heard "XXX", I'm holding you in prayer, would you like to look at the Calendar?". There was some hesitation about the piece about "I've heard" as some people may be uncomfortable about this.
- **What kind of patterns have been observed in work with the synod that may cause concern about how we operate:** on occasion the humanity of Church work is noticed. Overall, it has been noticed, we communicate well, and address room for growth in the way we work/ lead/ serve. There does not seem to be any undercurrent in the way we operate. There seems to be much joy.
- **Since the last report what is your biggest joy and surprise:** the surprise continues to be how difficult children's sermons can be. The biggest joy is baptisms and preaching.
- **Do you take acting/ improv classes on the side:** no! Currently reading a book called "Dream Like Jesus" that talks about becoming a pastor and then a teacher.
- **2025 is off to a wild start, if we could wave a magic church wand what would you do and why:** we would be a place where anyone could crawl, fall, or walk in the doors and know without a doubt that they are loved, no matter what state they are in. **This response was followed up asking what barriers there are.** These include "Evangelical", while open and affirming, people

don't really see this. Especially, having more extroverted and welcoming people around.

- **Have there been any classes/ trainings within the congregation to be more welcoming and affirming:** Unsure if this was a thing. But something to discuss with Adult Faith Formation.

Property Team – Phones Project:

- Jeff purchased VOIP phones in the last week.
- Frontier phone line has been downgraded to a basic business line.

Other

- Email covers everything that has happened in the last month.
- Carpets were cleaned this week.
- Set up for easter coming up.
- Cleaning up the property outside will be coming up.
- Mulch will be delivered to the handicapped parking near Mt. Read entrance which will last about 3 years.

Other Business:

- **Congregation Health & Well Being:** There have been questions about training people how to use our alarm system again – specifically how to protect people from ICE. There as insight to offer space for peace/ calm – a space to offer stilling of anxiety amidst the chaos in the news and the world around us. The next protest is April 19. Starting this Sunday, there will be a regular prayer petition for the president and other leaders praying for respect and compassion. There is a tending to be great fear/ anxiety amongst many of us. Is there a way for someone to come in and discuss ways to protect/ support their 401K?
- **Reconciling Works:** Sheri is working through Reconciling Works needs. This includes the 2024 update to our statement of welcome, and a donation that has been suggested at \$250 per year. Sheri/ Council is suggesting Outreach (as it is a testament for our welcome as a congregation) or Adult Faith Formation (as Reconciling Works is an educational organization). Mark is looking at Outreach. We're looking to use Outreach for this year. The link to donate is [Home - Reconciling Works](#). Mark will reach out to Julie with information.
- **Pride / LGBTQIA Flag:** there are chains hanging on the English Rd. side of the church. Using carabiners or something similar, a 4X6 flag would work, and would be hard to vandalize or steal. There is a San Diego queer own business that makes these flags for about \$250. Hoping to use an endowment grant to use for this and a bunch of other startup costs for the Messiah Pride Group. Bree found a vendor that has inclusive DEI policies for a Messiah Pride Banner, stickers, and a tee shirt.
- **Boulder Sign request:** part of this purpose would be making it clear what church people are at. It is anticipated to cost Messiah \$1,000 - \$2,000 to be pulled from the Memorial Fund (stone and

engraving is donated and foundation is being funded by Messiah). In terms of wording, it was discussed that it says the church name, and the shield. Any other wording would depend on what we do with the landscaping. The idea of using "All Are Welcome" is liked. What if we used "you are welcome" making it more personal. There was a request for more clarity regarding how this is being funded. Permission was given to proceed to discuss with the town the variance for this!

- **Vision Workshop – Dream Like Jesus:** there are good questions regarding assumptions we have about various things. Pastor Aileen is running a similar workshop this weekend. There is a thought of running a workshop in the Fall. **Interested Leaders:** Bree & Jeff & Laurie.
- **MELC Policy Document Review:** no intention to do this tonight. Jeff invited present council members to review the document and review things that involve each ministry area and send thoughts to Jeff for a review of just updates.
- **Congregation Event Calendar:** Paul was looking into updates for this. The thought process is to use the old PC from the sanctuary projector and monitor in narthex area, giving it a try in the upcoming week.
- **Messiah Website:** meeting scheduled for 4/27.

Next Meeting:

- May 8, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **IN PERSON**
Extended Report: Property | **Devotions and Prayer:** Breanna
Snacks: Andy and Mark
 - Council Summer Party @ Pastor Aileen's house. (July 27 @2PM)

Closing Prayer: Mark Sutliff