

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes**

October 9, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | In- Person

**Attendance: Present:** Breanna Dauphinee; Jeff Gerstenberger; Andy Mitchell; Laurie Simonson; Mark Sutliff; Sheri Treadwell; Amy Trichanh; Paul Williams; Lisa Klima; Ralph Jones

**Absent:** Jim Hartmann

**Devotions and Prayer:** **Leader:** Paul Williams  
**Theme(s):** Changing of Seasons. What is our preference for the changing of seasons?

**Agenda Review:**

- Printer Needs, mailbox lights have been added to other business
- Shredder request sent from Mark
- Pauls request – lights
- Jim's request for a selected date for a thank you celebration.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** 9/4/2025: special thanks for Sheri for leading in Jeff's absence. They were accepted as written

**Council Elections:** Ralph Jones elected to take Mark Sutliff's position. Ralph has been elected by the council until the next annual meeting

Amy made a motion to elect; Lisa seconded the motion. Whole council in favor. Jeff/ Pastor Aileen will meet with Ralph in the next few weeks to discuss the role

**Financial Reports: October 2025 Reports:**

- Less money received in September than we needed for expenses, but YTD is still very positive.
- Feedback on reporting and Julie's comments:
  - The money in – money out info is helpful.
  - Trend information is helpful and encouraging,
- Email discussion began today, regarding our investments. Our 1-year CD is coming due in the next few weeks and will need to be reviewed on what to do in the next few weeks. No input is needed from the council.
- Both the 1-year and 2-year CD's are for \$80,000. There is also over \$100,000 in a money market fund for now.

**Ministry Team Reports: Adult Faith Formation:**

- Lisa sent an email of the report.
- In lieu of reading the whole thing, she highlighted a few things.
- There is a blend of a different programs, and Lisa is working to visit all of her sub-groups.
- She's noticing that it's a great blend of members and community members.

**Meeting Minutes Submitted By:** Breanna Dauphinee

**Date:** 10/09/2025 **Time:** 08:35p.m.

- Laurie mentioned to Lisa that the program(s) she attends are growing and nurturing.
- Lisa's hope is to meet with spiritual growth next, then the lunch bunch.
- Lisa noted the possibilities that these ministries have to support the community.
- The benefit of these meetings being on zoom is it is accessible to more people.
- It would be nice to highlight how the adult faith formation initiatives really provide opportunities for the community AND provide opportunities for outreach too!
- At this time Ralph also jumped into the conversation to share some other Outreach activities.

## **Property**

### **Printer for Cathy's Office:**

- Jeff donated a laser printer that he had, including an extra toner cartridge.
- Ralph also offered an extra one he had as well.
- Paul asked why there was trouble with the printer in the copy room with the Finance team. Discussions were had about possibly using Ralph's for the finance office.

### **Light Replacements near Mailboxes:**

- These need to be completely taken down to be repaired. Paul suggested that replacement would be better. In terms of a timeline, this year seemed to be the time to do it. Council was in favor of proceeding with the replacement, since we are doing OK with respect to the budget.

### **Request for a Shredder:**

There is one in Cathy's office, however there was a request that the food pantry. They will try out the one in Cathy's office and then buy a shredder if that doesn't work for their needs.

There are upwards of 80 sheets per week to be shredded.

### **11/8/25 Update:**

Paul came in to turn on the boilers and switched every VRF unit to fan only instead of AC.

Updates to the system happen 2 times a year for seasons, and 2 times a year for daylight savings time changes.

## **Other Business:**

### **Jim Hartmann Request:**

- Stewardship team requested a celebration of thanks for gifts shared over the last year.
- 11/9 or 11/23.
- It was agreed that early November (11/9) was better. It was hoped to have more of a substantial / enhanced coffee hour supported by both council and the stewardship team. Laurie will coordinate sign-ups for the "enhanced" coffee hour.
- Ralph commented in term of Stewardship that we may want to consider doing commitment Sunday with some sort of online mechanism for the time & talent survey.

**Allocation of \$20K gift to Messiah:**

- Pastor and Jeff discussed and are proposing \$10,000 goes into the Greater Messiah Fund, covering the needs for the handbells, with the rest into the Memorial fund. It was noted that there is already a fair amount of money in the Memorial Fund.
- We will do the handbells, \$10,000 into the Greater Messiah, and then vote on the rest. **A motion was made for this by Paul and seconded by Lisa. Council all in favor.**

**Ministry team goals update:**

- Jeff made a reminder for each team to review the team goals, and to consider any potential updates that are needed.

**2026 Budget pre-planning:**

- Andy expressed appreciation for moving this up one month.
- Andy asked the team to open the document he sent in the email.
- It would be useful to have 3-year history for some varied expenses. (RG&E on weather needs). Best Practice will be followed and Andy will update the historical data.
- 2025 YTD actual data was updated as of last Tuesday (10/7).
- It may be helpful to have "last updated" date included on first tab.
- Reminder not to change anything in the "Totals" (first) tab.
- The blue colored cells should be updated.
- It was mentioned to share any feedback for any needs be shared with him.
- [Budget Planning](#) input has been requested by 11/6's council meeting.
- Andy asked if there was anything Finance Team could do better. No comment was made.

**Planning Aileen's Retirement:**

- This was "declined" out of appreciation for her ministry. 😊
- Some of the things don't happen until the year before.
- As a permission giving congregation, there should be consideration for "passing the baton" for whatever may come next.
- Mutual Ministry will need to do update the MSP, but Aileen should not be a part of that discussion and it shouldn't be done now.
- Coordinate with the Mobility Specialist with the synod.
- We should consider topics for future discipleship workshops in light of this transition.

**Document Management:**

- There is more of an intentional review and watch on our auditing process. This includes the documents we need to retain.
- There isn't really a cohesive approach to how we store congregational documents currently.
- Bree, Andy, and Mark will help to coordinate with Jeff.
- From a finance standpoint, this includes invoices. Other things include congregational minutes or records. The intention is to have a system that withstands any potential damage to the building, provides improved security, and improved accessibility

to records.

**Kids in Worship:**

- Concerns were raised about disruption of worship by young children.
- While a distraction and inconvenience is noticed, at a child's baptism we as a community commit to support the child and their family.
- Most young families don't have 2 adults coming to worship. How can we creatively address this?
- Andy is willing to jump back into teaching Sunday School.
- It was suggested that we consider bringing back the role of nursery coordinator, as the worship service can be heard in the nursery.
- The concept of "Pray-grounds" were discussed, using quiet toys and flexible seating. Any and Pastor will discuss and research this.

**Next Meeting:**

- **November 6, 2025** | 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **On Zoom**

**Extended Report:** Worship and Music | **Devotions and Prayer:** Sheri

**Closing Prayer:** Paul Williams