

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2023**

*Called into community, gifted to serve.*  
*Glorifying God through love in action.*

Present: Pastor Aileen Robbins, Joanne Niemi, Janet Graves-Wright, Andy Mitchell, Laurie Simonson, Sheri Treadwell, Amy Trichanh, Paul Williams, Mark Sutliff, Jim Hartmann, and Shelly Knapp.

We met hybrid via Zoom and Owl.

**Devotions and Opening Prayer** – Jim started our meeting with devotions and prayer. Jim used 1 John 3:18 regarding love with action and truth.

Joanne led the meeting.

**Agenda Review** – We added a Crime Report as a topic for discussion.

**Approval of May 4 minutes** – Minutes were approved as written.

**Financial Reports** – This was covered during Janet’s extended Ministry Report.

**Ministry Team Reports**

- Pastor Aileen:
  - Synod Assembly debrief. Shelly told us about her marvelous experiences at the Synod Assembly. Grace was the mindset, Generosity and Justice were themes. Criminal justice workshop was about who was harmed. One question was “What can I do to right the wrong that led me to do this?” Another workshop was focused on being more authentic. The bishop’s sermon was “on fire”. The council talked about amending our constitution so more people can attend as synod representatives. Shelly would like to go again next year.
  - New Position: Associate to the Bishop for Health Systems –
    - Memorandum of Understanding - There is concern that rolling out Pastor Aileen’s new part time role was not transparent. There was no opportunity for congregation discussion and members did not open their letters.
    - Financials - Julie said there is a discrepancy regarding financial re-imburement from the Synod. We need to balance the budget.
    - Pastor will invite people to discuss the new part-time position with her and council members after worship on June 11
- Extended Ministry Report
  - Finance: Janet sent out several reports for us to read in advance. She had questions about how we reported extended donations in the past, and we will continuing the same process moving forward for constancy. The accounts have a positive balance. Janet plans on including a quarterly summary in the newsletter. We reviewed the financial reports.
- Crime Report: Pastor was given a crime report regarding individuals whose purpose was to maliciously interrupt church services. They especially targeted female clergy and leadership. We discussed a plan to deal with this type of issue. Shelly has a check list that she can share with Pastor Aileen. We can instruct ushers, we can call 911, and other options. There is a video we can watch if considered necessary.
- Property: Paul
  - Property report and Boy Scout request – Paul sent out his usual very detailed property report for our review. Paul said the boy scouts would like to have a car wash fund raising event in our parking lot on July 1<sup>st</sup> from 10- 2:00. We voted and approved their request. We

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discussed drain replacement. Paul sent us several very colorful examples for sign replacement. This topic is moved to the next meeting. moved to next meeting.

**Looking Ahead:**

- Website update, please get information to Dave Best ASAP
- Discipleship Workshop: Goal review, discuss possible date. We need to set this by next month. We should include the Stewardship of Talents.
- Newsletter (Herald) articles are due soon.

**Next Meeting**

**Council Meeting** – Thursday, July 27, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 – Hybrid (use the OWL)  
Devotions & prayer – Amy  
Extended ministry report – None  
Priority Topic – Membership roll review

**Upcoming Dates:** July 30 is Pastor Hans 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary. Celebration with his family follows church service.

**Closing Prayer** – Jim closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson