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

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | In Person

Attendance: **Present:** Breanna Dauphinee; Carol Dunn; Jeff Gerstenberger; Ralph Jones; Lisa Klima; Joanne Neimi; Andy Mitchell; Mark Sutliff; Kacy Treadwell Collins; Sheri Treadwell Collins; Paul Williams

Devotions and Prayer: **Leader:** Pastor Aileen Robbins
Theme(s): Isaiah 43:1-7

Agenda Review:
- Questions about the upcoming meeting date will be discussed at the end.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **January 8, 2026 Council Meeting** accepted as written
January 25, 2026 Council Meeting accepted as written

New Member Welcome:
- There was a word of welcome for our new members.

Guiding Documents: Constitution, Bylaws, Continuing Resolutions, Policy Document:
- Brief description was given for each
- **The Constitution** is mostly specified by the ELCA and Synod. To change this requires 2 votes by the congregation.
- **The Bylaws** is the next level for more clarification. Council would propose these, and the congregation would vote on these once.
- **The Continuing Resolutions** are proposed and approved by council.
- **The Policy Document** describes the day-to-day and month-to-month workings of the congregation like funeral planning, renting the building, how counting team is assembled, etc.

Covenant of Participation:
- Everyone takes their 'talking turn'.
- Be on time – punctuality.
- Speak respectfully
- Listen with intention
- Active listening – ask if you're unsure of something or don't understand something.
- Be open to ideas and other opinions.
- Don't let the first reaction be no.
- Get ministry team reports to Council before meetings. If no news to report, then send an email to Council saying so. Also, when appropriate, get information to Cathy for the Herald on time (12th of each month).

Financial Reports: **January 2026 Reports:**
- January was overall good month.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee
Date: 02/14/2026 **Time:** 12:00p.m.

- Income a bit over $3,000 above our expenses for the month.
- We had about $13,000 in once-a-year payments in January.
- The Food Pantry fund balance as up $4431 in January.

Ministry Team Reports: **Outreach:**

- Email was sent with extended report information.
- Discussed using our budget where we cannot send volunteers but can support financial support.
- The emailed report highlighted things brought to the team's attention at the time of the last meeting, and things that need to be on a to-do list.
- Meow Ministry Update: information given to Kacy about possible communications project about involving more people. Information was given to Paul about anyone willing or interested in making winter hutches for Cats.
- There was also a note made that we would like to improve planning for community engagement regarding activism and advocacy.

Other Business: **Feedback from Finance Forum and Annual Meeting**

- No feedback was given to Council members.
- Jeff did not receive any day-of feedback, but did receive comments later about completeness of presentations.
- The big picture overview of the finances at the Annual Meeting was appreciated.

Publication of draft minutes from Annual Meeting:

- Minutes aren't usually published until the annual report is published before the next annual meeting.
- In the interest of sharing info, we will send the draft minutes in an email and add them to the website.

Memorial Fund Expense:

- $80 for a replacement mute switch for Pastor Aileen's microphone.
- The switch is connected between the body pack and the actual microphone on her ear.
- Kacy made a motion to approve this; Sheri seconded the motion. All of council voted in favor.

Policy Document Updates:

- **New designated fund in section 5.6.8:**
  Funeral Hospitality Fund (Donor Restricted): This Fund is used for expenses incurred in providing Fellowship Meals after a funeral as described in our Funeral Policy. This defines the purpose of the new designated fund. If costs for a reception were greater than the amount in the designated fund, then the remainder would come from the hospitality budget.
- **Related change to Funeral Policy – Fellowship Meal in section 4.3.7: Contributions to offset the expense of the**

fellowship meal are welcome and may be made to the Funeral Hospitality Fund ~~General Fund to offset the Hospitality budget.~~ This is updating where contributions to offset costs of funeral receptions go.

- **Update to Flower Fund description in section 5.6.8: Flower Fund (Donor-restricted): This Fund supports adding beauty to our worship and facility through the gift of flowers and plants, often donated in loving memory of someone or in honor of a special person or occasion. Contributions for seasonal flowers (e.g., Easter) will also be deposited in and disbursed from the Flower Fund.** This expands/clarifies the use of the Flower Fund to include plants or other things for our worship space.
- Breanna made the motion to approve the Policy Document changes; Sheri seconded the motion. All of council voted in favor.

Funding of support for Reconciling Works:

- The initial discussion on placing this $250 donation into the Outreach budget took place in August 2025.
- This doesn't fit neatly into the existing categories of the Outreach budget.
- It was noted that our support of Reconciling Works is a congregation-wide commitment. Since it is not limited to participants of the Messiah Pride ministry, putting the funding under Messiah Pride doesn't seem appropriate.
- It was suggested to put this into the "outreach other" budget for 2026 and have a standing Outreach budget line item moving forward.
- All of council agreed on this approach. Andy will communicate with Julie.

Celebration of Ministry for Pastor Hans (2/15):

- Paul picking up some photos from Linda.
- Bree to make Paul a cover page for the document for Hans.
- Paul will light the stove pilots on Saturday.
- Paul and Carol will set tables and make coffee on Sunday.
- There will be people around on Saturday that could help to set tables.
- Ideas: prayer, general words of thanks, give the book, and give Hans a chance to speak.

Council Meeting Dates:

- We will stick with the plan of meeting on April 9th even though it is the week after Easter. There isn't a viable alternative.
- Lisa (June) and Andy (September) will be swapping devotions.

Next Meeting:

- March 7 (instead of 3/5), 9:30-12:00 Council Retreat (Extended Report, Youth and Family; Devotions & Prayer, Joanne Neimi) **IN PERSON.**

Closing Prayer: Pastor Aileen Robbins

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee
Date: 02/14/2026 **Time:** 12:00p.m.