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

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2026 **|** 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM | On Zoom

Attendance: **Present:** Breanna Dauphinee; Carol Dunn; Jeff Gerstenberger; Ralph Jones; Lisa Klima; Joanne Niemi; Andy Mitchell; Kacy Treadwell-Collins; Sheri Treadwell; Paul Williams; Pastor Aileen Robbins

Devotions and Prayer: Leader: Ralph Jones
Theme(s): Prayer of St. Francis

Agenda Review:
- Property Report updates to be added (hearing assistance and kitchen stove).
- A question was raised about an AED machine being present in the church. – Paul will look into this.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **March 7, 2026:** no additions or corrections were noted. The minutes were accepted as written.

Financial Reports: **March 2026 Reports:**
- Giving in March was more than $5k under plan, even with 5 Sundays. For the year, we above plan, although we are lower than we have been in previous years.
- Jeff is planning to note finances in his council report in the next Herald, while Andy will keep his section more factual.

Ministry Team Reports:

Pastor Aileen
- Wants to chat more about goal setting.
- In March, we talked a lot about anxiety.
- Wants to reframe the way we look at goal setting to facing the future with hope, and suggested using the book *Dream Like Jesus*

Jesus-Like Dreams:
- Expands Assumptions
- Bigger than we are
- It scares us! (YIKES)
- It's about flourishing of the community not the survival of an institution
- It should inspire and unify people

What inhibits us from having a Jesus lead dream?
- Sustainability
- Property issues
- Fiscal issues
- Youth involvement

What might our dream include?

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee
Date: 04/09/2026 **Time:** 8:43 p.m.

- Justice Issues
- Community Support
- Self-sustaining community that people see as 'home' and families that continue to grow within the community.
- Knowing our story as a congregation. "What is our working parable that connects our past to our future?"
- That all visitors truly know that they are loved by God and welcomed into the community.
- Many ages and races represented. A diverse community with a true spirit of inclusion.
- Building stronger relationships with other communities. Who isn't in the Greece church community that we could invite in?
- One of our goals last time was to share our personal faith stories. As we consider sharing our collective Church history (both Messiah and Concord) it may be good to do both together.

Strategic Goal Setting: Next Steps

Volunteers to plan Goal Setting Workshop:

- Bree
- Andy
- Jeff
- Shelly Knapp (invite)

Timeline is 9AM – 12PM with breakfast.

Outreach:

Welcoming Church Memo

- Message from Shelly. While her message was broad with several ideas, it may be good to have the Outreach team consider short-term actions and bring those to the Council's attention.
- Longer-term actions may be related to work done by merger closure team or as part of the Strategic Goal Workshop. We would prefer to explore these ideas though those exist teams rather than start a new discussion group.

Property:

Kitchen Stove:

- We agreed that we will not remove shelf and instead will augment the fire suppression system to add another nozzle.
- The expense for this will be charged against the property operating budget.

Hearing Assistance:

- Survey response has been tabulated, but not fully reviewed yet.
- It seems that the existing FM-based system has been helpful for some.
- It was asked for those who continue to struggle, could it just not be loud enough or is it gargled?

- The survey closes on Sunday coming up, but current data so far shows our current system still needs improvement.

Stewardship:

- Messiah Pride Potluck and Chair Yoga as a possible conflict has been resolved. Chair Yoga is moving dates.

Other Business:

Memorial Fund expense approval for AV equipment:

- A motion was made to approve up to $200 from the Memorial Fund for the wireless camera link for the camera in the front of the sanctuary. Sheri made the motion and Lisa seconded the motion. All of council voted in favor.

Expense for transporting handbells to PA for refurbishment:

- $582 for the transport of the bells to the factory was not originally planned.
- Discussed funding this from the Memorial Fund.
- Instead, the transportation cost will be funded from the operating budget for worship and music. Any additional refurbishment expense needs will be addressed if/ when needed.

Policy Document Updates:

- Paul recommended that we update the room rental agreement to say no glitter.
- Ralph asked if we were doing background checks for volunteers from other churches. Our policy is that all volunteers working with children (even if from another church) need a background check, so the policy will remain as is. Background checks are provided through the Town of Greece.
- Ralph asked about the garage sale being a fundraiser. This was a fundraiser for a specific ministry (in this case for the food pantry). We don't do fundraisers to pay for anything in our operating budget, but the Food Pantry is not substantially funded from our operating budget.
- Paul's recommendation regarding glitter will be made to the Policy Document and sent out for review before the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

- May 7, 7:00-8:30 Council Retreat (Extended Report, Property; Devotions & Prayer, Breanna Dauphinee) **IN PERSON.**

Closing Prayer: Ralph Jones

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