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

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

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:** Breanna Dauphinee
Theme(s): Peace

Agenda Review:
- No additions for this month

Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 9, 2026: The minutes were accepted as written.

Financial Reports: **April 2026 Reports:**
- Our contributions are on plan, but total income is slightly below plan due to a missing payment from the Synod. Our expenses continue to be a fair amount above plan primarily due to annual expenses paid in January and higher than expected utility costs.
- A graphic was shared showing giving trends since January of 2024. In the graphic the bubbles show the level of income for each month.
- Nothing statistically significant, however there is some hesitation about not having larger up front giving at the beginning of the year.
- It is our expenses putting us off plan, not our income. However, It is possible we may see income see a similar pressure.
- Are there any expenses that can be postponed until are cash flow is not so negative? – this is a conversation for ministry teams.

Ministry Team Reports: **Property:**
- Comprehensive extended report was shared, Paul asked for questions.
- Otis let us know there are stricter rules in NY now regarding safety interlocks that could potentially cost us $18,000 for compliance. We need more info from Otis to understand what is needed.
- Our lawn service provider quit. We are getting quotes from several possible replacements, although the cost is expected to be a lot higher than what we have been paying.
- The leak in the ceiling near the office area has been looked at by a contractor, and there doesn't seem to be anything to fix.
- High Falls is going to come and trim some trees and remove a dead one.
- VRF is working well. Summer preventative maintenance will occur next week.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee
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- The small boiler has been repaired; the big boiler was taken offline. There is a $4,000 module that needs to be replaced. It is (mostly) working now, so we may delay replacement until it completely fails.
- Visitor Spaces being marked in the parking lot was a question asked for council. The intention was to make parking as convenient as possible. The idea was offered to make the two spots by the creek with signs on posts.
- There was a conversation about the repairs needed on the Food Distribution Fridge. The repair will be taken out of the food pantry budget.
- AED information was shared and discussed. An AED is around $2,000. Paul is following up with procedures, and training needs, and will investigate an alternative kit since the one that was originally recommended is unavailable due to a recall.
- Hearing Assistance - There was conversation about purchasing a few new loop(s) for people who have T-coil compatible hearing aids. Kacy made a motion to spend up to $400 from the memorial fund for hearing assistance needs, Joanne Neimi seconded the motion, all of council voted in favor.

Other Business:

Outreach: Question(s) about Mother's Day:

- There is not an official policy about Mother's Day. There is not a specific celebration of mothers given the variety of emotions and experiences that people may have regarding motherhood, mothers, etc.
- The question was how to celebrate mothers in some capacity in a subtle way; however, it wouldn't be a universal celebration.
- We agreed that there will not be any special celebration.

Outreach: Council Members as Greeters:

- It would be nice to have council members participate as greeters on occasion throughout the year.
- It would be good for us as leaders to be more visible throughout the year.
- Greeter would arrive around 9:30. Ralph will work on developing a schedule.

Outreach: People Power United Sign:

- A sign with positions taken by People Power United was shared. While the sign may be meaningful, it could people with opposing feeling to feel like they're unwelcome.
- Some people may be reactive to some of the text on the sign.
- While it could seem divisive, items on the list also provide opportunity for conversation and exploration.
- There will be more conversation about this.

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Policy Document update (grant tracking form & no glitter specified in room rental agreement)

- Document with changes was sent out ahead of the meeting.
- Sheri made a motion to approve the document; Lisa made a second. All of council votd in favor.

Pride flag status update: Messiah Pride:

- Not much thought had been put into getting the flag back up.
- There is a desire to keep it protected as best as possible.
- Action is referred to pride team conversation.

Merger Team Update (Joanne):

- Proposing a celebration each fall (Oktoberfest).
- $275 will come out of Concord Fund this year, for Braddock's Bay on 10/4/26. Shelter access is from 10AM – 10PM.
- Worship will be at 11AM followed by food and festivities.
- It will be Potluck.
- Hospitality is interested in helping.
- Activities will be available for kids.
- Overall, merger team has 3 sub teams. Ellen and Joanne are the overseers of the sub teams.
- It was asked how the needs of the congregation versus the ideas of the team would be balanced in sub team ideas and recommendations. Uses of the funds have covered things like the roof loan, some maintenance expenses, and Hans's salary. The process behind that team is to honor the priorities of the remaining money and then address other needs. This would be a way to build a stronger community, while merging two important identities.

GFL Spring Assembly Update (Bree):

- It was good
- There were some votes on conference council.
- There was some conversation into nominating synod council.

Ecumenical VBS update (Aileen):

- This will be at the Greece United Methodist Church this year.
- Planning will be approximately 5 weeks ahead of time.
- Dates for the event were requested.

Fellowship Hall for workshop for local congregation on June 6th (Aileen):

- Our Savior in Chili is in consolidation with Reformation. The pastor retired, and the new pastor would like to do some healthy systems work off site and requested our space on June 6 for a morning workshop.
- They would provide their own food.
- Council had no concerns.

El Shaddai Discussion (Aileen & Jeff):

- El Shaddai currently uses space at Gates Presbyterian.
- There has been some discussion about sharing space at Messiah for worship (1PM on Sundays), and for an after-school program on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 – 6:30, accommodating about 25 children.
- There was a question about what we would need to do to/ in our space to make it more suited for a tutoring program. We are waiting for a proposal from El Shaddai to determine this.
- There was discussion about changing our tutoring support to El Shaddai instead of in RCSD.

Goal Setting Workshop:

- This will be on May 16th, 9AM-noon.
- The theme is Dream like Jesus.
- The intention is to get people to think big, not being constrained by demographics and assumptions, and bring big ideas back into the development of goals.
- There is no expectation to come out of this workshop with a complete set of polished goals.

Schedule date for Zambia presentation:

- Kacy and Pastor Aileen will connect and set up a time to schedule a presentation.

Next Meeting:
Goal Setting Workshop: May 16th, 9 AM-noon **IN PERSON**
Council Meeting: June 11, 7:00-8:30PM **ON ZOOM**
Extended Ministry Report: Finance
Devotions & Prayer: Andy

Closing Prayer: Bree Dauphinee

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