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

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

Attendance: **Present:** Breanna Dauphinee; Carol Dunn; Jeff Gerstenberger; Ralph Jones; Shelly Knapp; Andy Mitchell; Joanne Neimi; Aileen Robbins; Kacy Treadwell Collins; Sheri Treadwell Collins; Paul Williams

Devotions and Prayer: **Leader:** Paul Williams
Theme(s): Healing

Agenda Review:
- A council photo was taken for our updated photo directory before devotions and prayer.
- Pastor and Kacy have requested to ask a question during other business.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 10, 2026 meeting minutes

Accepted as written barring the lol moment.

Financial Reports: **September 2026 Reports:**
- There are concerns as these have been directed to spam.
- Income-expense was $14,700 net unfavorable for the month, $17,600 net unfavorable YTD.
- Recommendation(s) to Council from Treasurer:
  - Identify opportunities to increase income or reduce expenses.
  - Revisit the practice of transferring monies from the currently under-supported Operating Budget into Unrestricted Designated Funds each month.
- Based on Recommendation(s):
  - In the past, the council has decided to defer contributions and revisit them in December. In this case the Food Pantry and the other being Youth Gathering. A motion was made and approved to suspend these transfers for the next 3 months.

Meeting Minutes Submitted By: Breanna Dauphinee
Date: 10/08/2026 **Time:** 08:56p.m.

- It was suggested that we make an announcement in church for transparency.
  - Jeff is willing to make an announcement on 10/18. In terms of the stewardship campaign, it seems like it makes sense.
  - Aileen will have a conversation with Tim regarding giving patterns as well.

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

- Handout was passed out including information based on just 4 weeks as ministry team leader for adult faith formation.
- The question(s) asked were:
  - What are the current opportunities to deepen our faith?
  - What are the current opportunities to connect with each other and the world?
  - What are the opportunities to share the good news and grow in faith during various stages of life?
  - What are some other possible Adult Faith Formation opportunities at Messiah?
- The comprehensive overview was impressive in such a short time

Other Business: **Merger Team Recommendations**

- The team reserved lodge 1 for the Oktoberfest event.
- The remaining recommendations were sent in September 2026:
  - Purchase chairs for the sanctuary (about $25-35k)
  - “You are welcome” sign above main entrance (about $5k)
  - Entryway plaques for Concord charter members and for the merger (about $5k)
  - Additional $50k for updates and improvements to the sanctuary (flooring, layout lighting, banners, etc.)
  - Remaining monies to be allocated to Greater Messiah Fund
- It was asked what the best process to act on the suggestions, and suggested to present to the congregation at the annual meeting.

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- It would make sense that all recommendations be presented together.
- Council accepts these recommendations to be sent to the congregation for further discussion based on Joanne's motion and Andy seconds the motion. Council voted to approve.

El Shaddai Update

- We need to make a plan for the information events we discussed at the last meeting. We also need to be clear that no decision regarding El Shaddai worship at Messiah has been made..
- It would be helpful to anticipate questions like "what will this do to our budget?"
- First informational meeting will be on 10/18 after worship and will be available on Zoom. (Messiah Pride will move).
- Second meeting will be on 11/8 after worship as well (also on Zoom). We will invite Pastor Heritage to preach that Sunday (and lead some music).
- We are not asking the congregation to vote, but rather build a consensus on this decision which will be made by Council. If there seems to be a need for additional conversation with Council, we will schedule an additional meeting.

Membership Roll Review:

- Nothing additional to present at this time.

2027 Council Nominations:

- Bree (open to re-election), Shelly (open to re-election), Paul, Jeff will be leaving Council.

Nominating Committee

- Two council members needed:
  - Paul and Kacy will be on the committee.

Question(s):

- There is an Afghan family in the area here legally who was detained. There is an effort to raise money for legal counsel and bail. Council supports Pr. Aileen sending an email describing the situation and inviting people to contribute.

2027 Budget Process Kick-off

- DO NOT UPDATE THE FIRST PAGE.

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- The 2027 budget section on the tab with our ministry team and last name should be filled in ahead of the meeting.
- Any new ministry expense should be added into the wish list on the tab for the associated ministry team.
- There is a column to add notes or explanations of any changes.
- Budget input should include input from ministry team, not just the ministry team leader.
- Inputs are due before the 11/5 meeting.

Congregational Goal Setting:

- Special Council meeting October 17 from 9:30 - 11:30 (noon at the latest)

Next Meeting: October 17, 2026 - 9:30 a.m **in person**
November 5, 2026 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m **ON ZOOM**
Extended Report: Worship and Music
Devotions & Prayer: Sheri Treadwell Collins

Closing Prayer: Paul Williams

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