

Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA/ Council Meeting

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | 12:00 noon | Fellowship Hall

Members present: Angela Kronau, Carolyn Lawhorn, Cristall Mount, Susan Hamilton, Judy Mennel, Mary Ellen Whitson, Jack Wilder, Martha MacCabe, Pastor Josh Moss

Members absent: Doug Mason

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action	Notes
MINISTRY TEAMS				
Care	Illy Wood	Susan Hamilton		
Disciple	Mary Williamson	Carolyn Lawhorn		
Invite	Kate Spears	Mary Ellen Whitson		
Serve	Connie Cole	Jack Wilder		
Worship	Jane Mason	Martha MacCabe		
SUPPORT TEAMS				
Badenhop	Mary Ellen Whitson	Vacant		
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Judy Mennel		
Personnel	Connie Cole	Angela Kronau		
Property	Jon Driskill	Cristall Mount		
SPECIAL GROUPS				
BAM (Disciple)	No Leader	Carolyn Lawhorn		
DJC (Serve)	L. Wilder, M. Driskill	Jack Wilder		
Fellowship (Invite)	C. Lawhorn, J. Mennel	Cristall Mount		
Policy (Support)	Mike Driskill	Angela Kronau		
Stewardship (Finance)	Tom Cole	Martha MacCabe		
WELCA (Disciple)	Anne Tinker	Cristall Mount		
STAFF				
Parish Nurse	Mary Sophia Hawks	n/a		
Interim Senior Pastor	Pastor Josh Moss	n/a		
Director of Music	Mary Phillips	n/a		

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Angela | Opening Devotion by Pastor Josh & meal by Angela K.

Angela K. called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm. Pastor Josh provided a devotion based on readings from the book of Malachi. He wants us to remember that hope takes work. As the Council of the church, we must stay focused on our mission. We must hold to consistency over urgency. As leaders of the church, trust is very important to

maintain with the congregation. We must practice honest communication with our members. We are to model the life of faith that we ask the congregation to follow. So as we continue to work through the decisions that we, as Council, are charged to do, let us not forget that hope and endurance are attributes that will support us through our work for the church. We will keep no secrets from our congregation, and we will not rush decisions that require thoughtful consideration before being finalized.

2. Approval of October Minutes

Copies of the Called Executive Council Meeting minutes (held October 28, 2025) and the Called Council Meeting minutes (held November 2, 2025) were distributed to Council members to add to this month's Council Packet. Cristall M. moved to approve the October Minutes, Called Executive Council Minutes and Called Council Meeting Minutes. Judy M. seconded the motion. The Minutes were then approved by Council unanimously.

3. Finance Update – Doug Mason

- Doug M. was unable to attend the Council meeting today, but emailed his update to Council members, which follows:

In October, our expenses exceeded budget by \$2,678 and our contributions fell short of budget for the month by \$1,031, so our available cash balance decreased by \$3,709 to \$34,581. Expenses included \$3,200 to clear the east side ditch. Otherwise, there was not much of note.

Year to date, our giving is \$12,261 short of budget, but we've spent \$13,436 less than budget YTD, so we are \$1,175 favorable. However, we budgeted to use \$5,833 of our excess cash to supplement giving YTD, so our cash balance has actually decreased by \$4,657. Our holiday and year end giving may offset that.

Two other notable items are that we added \$323 to our building maintenance fund in October which now totals \$21,050, and the Mena Eckerd Fund added \$920 of income this quarter and that fund now totals \$3,427.

- A question was introduced concerning the \$11,000 that the Badenhof fund was asked to provide for the Middle School program. The Disciple Ministry Team has made a request for the funding but is waiting for the room that will be used by the Middle School group to be repaired and cleaned from mold or other type of damage. This has been an ongoing issue in that room for several years now, and though several volunteers have attempted to resolve the issue, it continues to be a problem. Cristall M. will get two estimates from two different mold remediation companies for identifying and fixing the issue and will report back to Council next month.

4. Proposed 2026 Budget: Doug Mason

Doug M. is currently working on the 2026 budget. In recent days it was discovered that the mortgage loan that Messiah currently has will need to be renewed next year, so Doug is now reaching out to several financial institutions to see what refinancing our mortgage might do to our 2026 financial obligations. He will hope to have a proposal available for Council to review within a couple of weeks, so that the 2026 budget proposal will be available for our Congregational Meeting scheduled for December 7, 2025.

5. Correspondence, updates, building use requests

- Two building use requests were approved by the Executive Council this month. Emory Valley Early Intervention Event requests the use of the Fellowship Hall on the morning of December 10, 2025. The International Brotherhood of Magicians have requested the use of the Fellowship Hall each fourth Thursday evening of the month during 2026 (except November and December).
- Rick Christian has updated and reworked our Building Use Request forms (pages 15-20 of this month's Council packet). After reviewing the new forms, Cristall M. moved that Council approve both forms (one for members of Messiah Lutheran Church and the other for non-members of MLC). Jack W. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

6. Monthly Committee Reports

Cristall M. presented the WELCA committee report (which will be added to this month's Council packet). The Holiday Market on November 8 was a success, raising \$1270, which will be presented to their selected beneficiaries, Care Cuts and the SE Synod Disaster Relief Fund. This presentation will take place at the WELCA Advent Tea Brunch to be held on December 13. This past September Debbie Hampstead and Anne Tinker attended the annual SE Synod WELCA Convention in Nashville.

7. Constitution update

The church constitution, now under review and updating, will not be ready today, though progress is being reported and should be ready by the Congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 7, 2025.

8. Brainstorm new treasurer

Alice Ramsey has been approached by members of Council to take over the office of church treasurer. She has said that she would be interested in the position. Jack W. made a motion to formally ask Alice Ramsey if she would accept the job of church treasurer, Cristall M. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

9. Security door repair

To repair the front security door mechanism, a quote of \$658.00 has been offered by i4C Technology Group, which is the company that installed Messiah's new internet system. This cost should be covered by funds in the Building Maintenance fund. Mary Ellen W. made a motion to approve the bid amount of \$658 by i4C Technology, Judy M. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. Cristall M. made a motion to approve the funds covered by the Building Maintenance fund. Judy M. seconded the motion and Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

10. Other Business

- St. John's, Gloria Dei and Peace Lutheran churches have approached Messiah with a request to host their Friendsgiving event scheduled for November 28 this year. They would like to have access to the kitchen and Fellowship Hall from 8:30 am till 4:00 pm. They have also requested that Messiah provide security for the event throughout the day. Paul Jones has agreed to be Messiah's host for the day. After discussion, Council agreed to allow the use of our church for the event, though we will not be able to hire security personnel as they had requested. If they would like to engage in that level of security, they will need to provide funding for that.
- Pastor Josh has been contacted by Pastor Judy at Gloria Dei about the possibility of allowing one of their parishioners the opportunity to intern at Messiah for two years as they pursue their candidacy for becoming a pastor. Jessica, who is seeking the internship, would like to focus on children's ministries, but also has interest in working with older adults. She would be available two Sundays each month, would commit to a two-year stay and would like to have preaching responsibilities once a month. Council has agreed to meet with her on Sunday, November 23 for an interview to hear more details about this proposal.

11. Adjourn

Angela K. adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn, Secretary

Date submitted: November 18, 2025

Angela Kronau, President
Cristall Mount, Vice President
Carolyn Lawhorn, Secretary
Doug Mason, Interim Treasurer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, December 14 at 1 PM at the Lawhorns

Devotion: Angela Kronau

UPCOMING DATES:

Committee Reports Due to Carrie: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 9 at 6 PM via Zoom