

## Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA/ Council Meeting

*Sunday, July 20, 2025, at 11:00 am | Fellowship Hall, Messiah*

**Members present:** Judy Mennel, Rick Christian, Angela Kronau, Jack Wilder,  
Martha MacCabe, Carolyn Lawhorn, Mary Ellen Whitson,  
Pastor Mark Cerniglia, Susan Hamilton

**Members absent:** Cristall Mount

### **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

| Reporting Group       | Leader                 | Council Liaison    | Action | Notes                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| <b>MINISTRY TEAMS</b> |                        |                    |        |                             |
| 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     |        |                             |
| <b>SUPPORT TEAMS</b>  |                        |                    |        |                             |
| Badenhop              | Mary Ellen Whitson     | Rick Christian     |        |                             |
| Connect               | Michele Wilson         | Susan Hamilton     | X      | Permanent Signage at Corner |
| Finance               | Steve Hess             | Judy Mennel        |        |                             |
| Personnel             | Connie Cole            | Rick Christian     |        |                             |
| Property              | Jon Driskill           | Cristall Mount     | X      | Blessing Box  Trash         |
| <b>SPECIAL GROUPS</b> |                        |                    |        |                             |
| 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 Mount       |        |                             |
| Stewardship (Finance) | Michele Wilson         | Martha MacCabe     |        |                             |
| WELCA (Disciple)      | Anne Tinker            | Cristall Mount     |        |                             |
| <b>STAFF</b>          |                        |                    |        |                             |
| Parish Nurse          | Mary Sophia Hawks      | n/a                |        |                             |
| Interim Senior Pastor | Pastor Mark Cerniglia  | n/a                |        |                             |
| Director of Music     | Mary Phillips          | n/a                |        |                             |

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Call to Order: Angela | Meal & Opening Devotion by Carolyn Lawhorn**

Angela K. called the meeting to order at 11:15. Carolyn L. led our devotion using excerpts from the Lutheran legacy of peacemaking blog posted during September 2018. She has been thinking about the struggle in our current age to find peace in our world.

And, though peacemaking is only mentioned twice in the New Testament, the writers of this series suggest that “our journey as Lutherans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is one of ecumenical and interfaith exchange and understanding.”

## **2. Approval of June Minutes**

Martha M. moved to approve the June Minutes, Jack W. seconded the motion. The Minutes were then approved by Council unanimously.

## **3. Finance Update - Steve Hess**

Steve Hess was absent from the meeting, but sent, via email, his financial update for the month of June.

- **2025** Income and Spending plan **\$29,648** per month
- **June** General Fund **Income** was **\$2,712 below** plan.
  - General Fund income is **\$8,505 below** plan YTD (**5%**)
  - General Fund Income is **\$4,122 below** last year at this same time.
- **June** General Fund **Expenses** were \$4,351 below Plan.
  - General Fund Expenses are \$17,131 below plan YTD.
  - General Fund Expenses are \$18,473 below last year at this same time.
- **June** General Fund **Unrestricted Cash** reserves increased to **\$42,130**
  - This is 6.2 weeks' worth of cash.
  - At this level of unrestricted cash, I recommend General Fund spending at plan or a bit more.
- Other **June** items to note:
  - We have 7K in Tree & Ditch work to complete
  - We have Mold Remediation & Moisture issues to address in the Lower Level Ed Wing
  - We Have Exterior Painting to complete
  - We have Kitchen repairs to complete
  - The 2025 Spending Plan was modified to include a Part Time Admin
    - Spending was reduced for Property
- The Badenhof Ministry contributed \$3,400 to children & youth - new balance \$10,647
  - We are continuing the transition to the new Tech Services Provider

## **4. Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.**

There were two BUR forms submitted to Council this month:

- Hart-Strings Violin Studio requested the use of the Fellowship Hall for rehearsals (9/21, 10/26 and 11/23/2025) for a total of 11 hours. Their representative requested a total fee of \$75 for use of our facilities (based on the fee charged them in 2024), but Council recommended \$85 for use of our facilities considering the new building use fee schedule Council approved last year.

- The Holiday Market submitted a BUR form for their 2025 fundraiser scheduled for 10/30-11/1, 2025. This was approved unanimously by Council.

## 5. Committee Reports

- a. **No Badenhop report for June:** We revisited Pastor Mark's proposal for the hiring of a technical assistant for the last quarter of 2025 to assist Messiah's tech volunteers as they become more familiar with the new sound system that was installed earlier this year. Pastor Mark suggests a 3-step support system that this person would use: This hire would be present every Sunday to assist with the sound system, provide training in the use of the sound system, and develop a handbook outlining the use of and troubleshooting techniques for the sound system to be available for all tech volunteers. Mary Ellen W. reported that the Badenhop Committee is receptive to helping financially with this hire. Pastor Mark reported that Mary Phillips is researching a reasonable pay scale for this type of internship and is also looking for possible candidates for this position.

## 6. Membership

- a. **Reinstatement of Meg Liner:** Meg Liner has spoken with Pastor Mark about her desire to be reinstated as a member of Messiah and, upon the birth of her baby in August, to have the baby baptized at Messiah, as well. Both the reinstatement of Meg and the baptism of her new baby will be held on the same Sunday some time after the baby's birth.
- b. **New Members Chris and Cynthia Coffey:** Chris grew up at Messiah, but after his marriage to Cynthia, moved his church membership to her family's church. They are now looking for a new church home and would like to become members of Messiah. Pastor Mark has met with them and they will be joining soon.

Mary Ellen W. made a motion that Council should approve the reinstatement of Meg Liner, the baptism of her new baby and the new members, Chris and Cynthia Coffey. Martha M. seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

## 7. Update on Security Cameras: Judy Mennel

Judy and Sonny Mennel have donated 4 Ring security cameras to the church (they run on rechargeable batteries and do not need to be monitored since any activity can be seen by anyone with the Ring App that identifies those devices). The plan is to mount one video at each exterior door and Judy M. will contact Jon Driskill about the necessary requirements needed to do that work. Until such work is completed, Carolyn L. will continue to request the Property Watch service that KPD has been providing the church for the past month.

## **8. Call Committee update**

The Call Committee has interviewed a candidate for the second time and has checked his references. A timeline for next steps will be issued by Bishop Strickland in the coming days. Pastor Mark's contract is currently set to expire the end of August, but this will be revisited at Council's August meeting should that become necessary.

## **9. Other Business**

### **a. Signage on Library side of the church:**

Since the trees along the Golfclub Rd. side of the church property will not be removed, an additional church sign should be considered to place at the corner of Kingston Pike and Golfclub Rd. so that travelers heading west on Kingston Pike can identify the church before they pass it by. It was recommended that the Connect Committee might be willing to research this for Council, especially in terms of type of structure, costs and placement.

### **b. Blessing Box update:** The Serve Committee will meet and determine what their responsibilities will be for this. Pastor Mark will check with Mike Tinker and Sonny Mennel about their interest in redesigning the Blessing Box door.

## **10. Meeting was adjourned**

Judy M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jack W. seconded the motion, and Council approved the motion unanimously. Angela K. led Council in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn

Date submitted: July 23, 2025

***NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, August 17, 2025 at 11 am,  
Devotion by Pastor Mark & Meal by Susan Hamilton***

***UPCOMING DATES: Committee Reports Due to Carrie: Wednesday, August 6, 2025  
Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm via  
Zoom***