

Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA/ Council Meeting

Sunday, September 21, 2025 | 12:00, noon | Fellowship Hall, Messiah

Members present: Rick Christian, Angela Kronau, Jack Wilder, Martha MacCabe,
Carolyn Lawhorn, Mary Ellen Whitson, Tom Cole,
Pastor Josh Moss, Mike Driskill, Jon Driskill

Members absent: Judy Mennel, Susan Hamilton, Cristall Mount

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	Rick Christian		
Connect	Michele Wilson	Susan Hamilton		
Finance	Steve Hess	Judy Mennel		
Personnel	Connie Cole	Rick Christian		
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 and meal by Jack Wilder

Angela K. called the meeting to order at 12:15. Jack W. led the devotion using a passage from Exodus 3 which tells the story of Moses and the Burning Bush. He reminds us that wherever God is, we are standing on holy ground. He then explains that

in the time that Exodus was written, the word for “holy” meant weird. He wants us to remember that since this is the first day of Pastor Josh’s first ministerial assignment, that he may also feel some “weirdness” as he begins this journey with us. But just as God is with him throughout this new journey, we, the Council and Congregation of Messiah are also with him. We stand at the dawning of a new age for Messiah, as we welcome Pastor Josh to the Messiah family!

2. Approval of August Minutes

After Carolyn L. passed out the corrected version of the August Minutes, Jack W. moved to approve the August Minutes. Mary Ellen W. seconded the motion. The Minutes were then approved by Council unanimously.

3. Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.

There were none presented today for Council to review.

4. Finance Update - Steve Hess

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

- **2025** Income and Spending plan **\$29,648** per month
- **August** General Fund **Income** was **\$986 below** plan.
 - General Fund income is **\$9,911 below** plan YTD (**4%**)
 - General Fund Income is \$2371 above last year at this same time.
- **August** General Fund **Expenses** were **\$1,051 Above** Plan.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$17,633 below plan YTD.
 - General Fund Expenses are \$13,070 below last year at this same time.
- **August** General Fund **Unrestricted Cash** reserves increased to **\$41,126**
 - This is 6.0 weeks’ worth of cash.
 - At this level of unrestricted cash, I recommend General Fund spending at plan or a bit more.
 - I recommend moving forward and completing planned building maintenance projects
- Other **August** 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
 - We are continuing the transition to the new Tech Services Provider
 - Our Sr Pastor Expenses will increase with the onboarding of the full time Pastor

Questions arose concerning the phrase “General Fund **Unrestricted Cash**”. If this month’s Unrestricted Cash is valued as “6.0 weeks’ worth of cash” does that mean it can be used for any unexpected expense (like an emergency fund) or could a couple of weeks’ worth of cash be transferred to a specific line item, such as property maintenance fund, to help build up more available funds in a specific line item? Several members of Council who have dealt with the church budget for a number of years now explained that the Unrestricted Cash reserve would be used for unexpected expenses that occurred for a particular budget line item, if those expenses were more than what was allocated for that line item in the current year’s budget. This is because some church members make their annual giving available for specific line items in the budget, not the general budget to be used, as needed.

Council also considered ways to provide regular updates on the budget and any upcoming expenditures throughout the year. The consensus was that a team will be identified to develop a plan to do this in a way that will be useful and easily understood by the congregation.

5. Stewardship Update: Tom Cole

Tom C. reminded Council of three major points as Messiah’s Stewardship Campaign begins:

- Tom requests prayers for himself and the church as we begin this important time for the life of the church
- He reminded Council of their pledge earlier this year to increase our pledge amounts by 1/12 of each of our 2025 giving levels for the 2026 campaign
- There will be several Temple Talks presented to the congregation during the month of October

6. Constitution Update: Mike Driskill

Mike D. reminded Council that the last major updates made to the Church Constitution was in 2018. He presented an annotated copy of that document in which he identified some changes and possible updates that need to be made. Several Council members suggested that term limits should be set in place for all Congregation officers so that no one person shoulders such responsibility for an unlimited amount of time. Pastor Josh asked if a team consisting of Mike D., Beth Ford, Rick Christian and himself be willing to begin that work. All agreed and this project will be presented as a Goal for 2026 at the November Congregational Meeting.

7. Monthly Committee Reports

No reports were discussed.

8. Sound System Update

Angela K. signed the contract and the work started on Tuesday, September 16. It was finished Wednesday, September 17. The contractor will continue to provide service and tech support, as needed. Pastor Josh said that the system worked great

during his Saturday Ordination Service (September 20) though a glitch did develop in one microphone. He has already notified Bruce (of EMP—Elliot Mission Productions), who installed the system, and he will return soon to fix the issue. Bruce will also help update Jon Driskill with the new system.

9. Approval of Security Door repair

Tabled until the October meeting.

10. Other Business

a) Safety Team: Mike Tinker, Mary Williamson, Cameron Driskill, Don Lawhorn, Burt Wagoner and Jon Driskill have been asked to serve. Pastor Josh's objective for the Safety Team is to ensure safety for all. This team will meet with a KPD representative on Friday, September 26, to begin discussions on best practices and conduct a facilities audit to help Messiah determine what improvements can be made to our church property to provide better safety for our church.

b) Jon D. made a request to set up an email account for the property committee so that property issues and requests can be sent directly to him. He will also need that email added to the current Building Use Request form so that groups who want to use the church sound system as part of their event can contact Jon D., as well as Michele Wilson and Carrie Parrot. Rick C expressed that he has comments to the BUR form and agreed to mark up the form for consideration by council.

11. Adjourn with Prayer

Martha M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick C. seconded the motion, and Council approved the motion unanimously. Angela K. led Council in prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn

Date submitted: September 22, 2025

***NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 12 noon,
Devotion & Meal by Martha MacCabe***

***UPCOMING DATES: Committee Reports Due to Carrie: Wednesday, October 8, 2025
Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, October 13 at 6:30 pm
Via Zoom***