

Messiah Lutheran Church | ELCA – Council Retreat

Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 9:00-12:00 noon | Susan Hamilton's Home

Council members present: Michele Wilson, Carolyn Lawhorn, Jon Driskill, Angela Kronau, Susan Hamilton, Becky Breeden, Cristall Mount, Pastor Mark, Davin Henrik, Jack Wilder

Council members absent: None

AGENDA

1. Opening Activity: Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark led the Council in a game of “Two truths and a Lie” which gave each member a chance to learn some new things about all other members.

2. Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark

3. Discussion: Pastor Mark

- Pastor Mark led a discussion, using Messiah's Constitution as a guide, to clarify for Council members what the responsibilities of the Church Council are. Several members agreed that this was a good introduction to our meeting this month, as we prepare to work through our search process for a new pastor.
- Pastor Mark led us in a discussion of what congregational “New Realities” look like for churches in today's culture. It is true that churches today face many different challenges than churches earlier in our history, so as we pursue our goal of finding a new pastor for Messiah, it will be prudent for us to understand these current realities and set goals and aspirations for our church and our new pastor that will account for these conditions. The “New Realities” that will influence our search process are:
 - 1) The collapse of church culture
 - 2) The shift from church growth to kingdom growth
 - 3) A new reformation
 - 4) The return to spiritual formation
 - 5) The shift from planning to preparation
 - 6) The rise of apostolic leadership

- Council members reviewed both our Mission Statement (adopted 2/3/2019) and our Statement of Welcome (adopted in 2023). We agreed that these are two good statements representing the values at Messiah and should help guide us as we develop goals and visions for our church. Goals that will encourage our neighbors and others to understand that we truly are a welcoming congregation that seeks to offer a joyful, spirit-led community of faith.

4. Goals for Messiah Lutheran as we prepare our Ministry Site Profile

Several recurring themes that members of the congregation identified when working in the small group discussions with Pastor Mark which we, as Council, articulated in terms of Goals for Messiah to begin working toward during the search process over the next several months. They can be summarized, as follows:

- Goal 1: Update the Messiah Lutheran Church Constitution and present it to the congregation at its annual meeting in November/December.
- Goal 2: Create, in conjunction with our neighbors in Deanne Hill and consult with the city regarding the possible uses of the church's property.
- Goal 3: Complete a comprehensive study of the current and future building uses and develop a needs list for building maintenance.

5. Closing: Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark closed the session by leading us in prayer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, July 21 in the Fellowship Hall. Meal and devotion volunteers TBD.

UPCOMING DATES: Reports are due by Monday, July 15. The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn

Date: June 11, 2024