

Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA/ Council Meeting
Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 1:00 pm | the Lawhorn's home

Members present: Angela Kronau, Carolyn Lawhorn, Cristall Mount, Susan Hamilton, Judy Mennel, Mary Ellen Whitson, Martha MacCabe, Pastor Josh Moss, Dawn Liner, Pastor Jessica McCrosky, Jon Driskill

Members absent: Jack Wilder

***LEADERSHIP
TEAM***

Reporting Group	Leader	Council Liaison	Action	Notes
<i>MINISTRY TEAMS</i>				
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		
<i>SUPPORT TEAMS</i>				
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		
<i>SPECIAL GROUPS</i>				
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		
<i>STAFF</i>				
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 1:18 pm. She also provided a devotion based on readings from the book of Matthew 25, verses 31-46. She paraphrased this reading using a poem. She reminded us that the size of our "works" is not judged, but rather that

we are always willing to respond to the opportunities to serve, when we are presented with the opportunity to do so.

2. Approval of November Minutes

Cristall M. moved to approve the November Minutes, Judy M. seconded the motion. There was no discussion about the Minutes, as presented, so the Minutes were then approved by Council unanimously.

After the motion was approved, a question was raised regarding the work on the security door. Jon D. told Council that the work was still in progress, due to a delay in acquiring a needed part to complete the job. He also announced that the elevator safety feature has been fixed.

3. Finance Update – Doug Mason

- Doug M. was unable to attend the Council meeting today, but emailed his update to Council members, which follows:
 - Our giving for the month was \$3,117 less than budget and our spending was \$59 less than budget, so our unrestricted cash decreased by \$3,058 to a balance of \$31,630.
 - Hopefully the giving was just off due to timing and we will see an increase in December, which is usually the case.
 - There was no extraordinary spending, and all expense categories were near budgeted levels.

4. Approval of obtaining a Line of Credit: Doug Mason

- Doug M. provided the following background and information he has obtained in discussions with Regions Bank concerning Messiah's interest in applying for a line of credit:

I discussed obtaining a line of credit with my contact at Regions, who is Angel Tapia, Commercial Relationship Manager, VP. He said that we could apply for a credit line of whatever level we think we will need, give a time span for the loan, and do so even if we don't plan to access it for two or three years. He said it is reassessed every year by the bank and renewals are pretty automatic unless the dollar amount changes or the term changes. Then, we would make another application. I propose we ask for \$150,000 for a six-year period. We could always extend the term if we cannot pay off the loan for another year or two. The interest rate is prime plus a percentage, and changes as the prime rate changes. We don't pay any interest until we draw on the credit line. I will ask him what the current rate is when I submit the application.

After discussion, Cristall M. made a motion to accept the terms of the line of credit, as Doug M. had outlined, Martha M. seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously by all Council members. Doug M. will follow through with the application process over the next several weeks, once all required documentation is submitted to him by Council.

5. Correspondence, updates, building use requests

- Hart-Strings Studio submitted a Building Use Request form requesting the use of our Fellowship Hall on January 25th, March 1st and April 12th of 2026. The request was approved by the Executive Council committee.
- A Building Use Request form was submitted by the ELCA Disaster Ministry, SE Synod, requesting office space in our church to be used by the Ministry's new director, Davin Henrik, beginning December 15, 2025. After discussion, Council has proposed that the value of using that office space be included in the budget allowance recommended for Messiah's annual Synod contribution. In lieu of payment for using our office space, we will recommend that the value of the office space for the duration of its use by the Synod be considered as an "In-Kind Donation" to the Synod.

6. Monthly Committee Reports

- Jon D. provided some updates to his Property Committee Minutes. The storm damage clean-up is in its final phase, though there will be an ~\$90 increase in the cost that was approved by Council earlier this year. Council approved the new cost, \$2,680, was approved unanimously by Council. Jon D. also presented the proposal submitted by the Lee Company to upgrade/replace four parking lot pole lamps and a single Fellowship Hall main lamp. The total for all repairs/replacements is \$3,416.00. Martha M. made a motion to approve the cost and proposal as presented, Judy M. seconded the motion and Council approved the motion unanimously.
- Susan H. presented updates from the Connect team's last meeting
 - Thanks to Mike Flatford for changing the sign regularly and assisting with banners
 - Our new releases have had a positive impact with local media. In addition to having events listed in the News Sentinel neighborhood papers, WATE's Living East TN series featured the Holiday Market held this past November and will host Pastor Josh and Deacon Jane Mason this Friday, December 19, to promote our Blue Christmas service scheduled for Sunday, December 21.

- Pastor Josh announced that, as a result of his request for Council's approval of up to \$500 for a Baptismal Bowl Project that he is proposing, a Messiah family has donated the requested funds. The bowl and matching pitcher will be produced by artisans at Pretentious Glass and will be ready for use by the end of January 2026.

7. Constitution update: Rick Christian

The church constitution, now under review and updating, and the final draft of the MLC Constitution is being reviewed by the committee before it is sent to the Council for review.

8. Election of Council Officers for 2026

The following persons have agreed to serve as officers of the Council for the year 2026:

- Cristall Mount – President
- Mark Rice – Vice President
- Carolyn Lawhorn – Secretary

Martha M. made a motion to approve these persons for their agreed upon positions, Judy M. seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously to approve this slate of officers.

The new Council members are Mark Rice, Paul Jones and Clint Baker. The member leaving Council at the end of this year is Angela Kronau (Rick Christian and Davin Henrik left their positions on Council earlier this year because of personal circumstances).

9. Decide on meeting day and time

Cristall M. requested that Council continues to meet on the third Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon. All members of Council agreed to continue the current schedule.

10. Sign up for devotions and meals

11. Other Business

Pastor Josh updated Council on the Safety & Security Team progress. Don Lawhorn & Jon Toth will be meeting soon to draw up needed documents, such as emergency exit procedures, weather statements concerning cancellations, and identifying teams of three to usher on Sunday morning services.

12. Meeting Adjourned

Cristall M. adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Pastor Jessica prayed us out.

13. Addendum: Council vote on new church treasurer, Dawn Liner

Via email, Angela K. requested approval of Dawn Liner as Messiah's church treasurer. Judy M. made a motion to approve the appointment, Mary Ellen W. seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a majority vote of Council members.

Submitted by: Carolyn Lawhorn, Secretary

Date submitted: December 19, 2025

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

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, January 18 at 12 noon, Fellowship Hall

Devotion: Paul Jones

Lunch: Carolyn Lawhorn

UPCOMING DATES:

Committee Reports Due to Carrie: Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6 PM via Zoom

Facility Use Agreement – MLC Member

This form is to be completed by the responsible person for any non-worship or non-ministry event that takes place in the Messiah Lutheran Church (MLC) facility and must be on file at least two weeks prior to the start date of the event. Check area/room availability with the Administrative Assistant, the Property Committee, and the Audio/Visual Team prior to completing this form. The signed original will be kept on file in the church office; a copy will be provided to the responsible person upon request as confirmation of facility reservation. **Your date is not firm until deposit and signed agreement are on file.**

Please note:

- 1) It is your group's responsibility to leave the space as you found it.
- 2) Only use the sound system, computer, or the projector if you have received training. Once used, it MUST BE packed and stored the way it was found.
- 3) Funerals or other unforeseen church-related priorities take precedence over ALL scheduled activities. MLC reserves the right to cancel any activity if it becomes necessary to schedule a funeral.

Facility User Information

Name of Event: Grandmother - Mother - Daughter Luncheon

Sponsoring Organization: WELCA

Description of Event: Luncheon

Date(s) of Use: Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 21

Anticipated number in attendance: 100

Time of Event (beginning & end times): Friday - Set up at 3:00 pm/ Saturday, Event & Breakdown - 9:30 - 2:00 pm

Anticipated time of set up: _____

Area/Room(s) to be used: Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

Name & Position of Responsible Person: Anne Tinker, WELCA President

Address: _____

Egg & Care Cuts
in kitchen

Primary Phone Contact: 865-363-8576

Secondary Phone Cont

Email: anne.tinker1952@gmail.com

9:30 A - 1:00 P

EVENT SET UP:

*Will you need time before the event to set up? Yes No How much time? 3 hours

*Will you need time after the event to take down? Yes No How much time? 2 hours

*Note that charges start when set-up begins and end when take-down is completed.

Are tables and chairs needed inside? Yes No Where are they needed? Standard set up

If yes, do they need to be transported? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Will you need to use MLC's tablecloths? Yes No If so, you will be responsible for washing them after the event.

Will you need assistance setting up tables, chairs, etc.? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.) Please provide a set-up sketch by attaching to this form.

Attached Will be sent

We will be asking BAM for help.

EVENT REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE:

Who will be invited? Church members Community

Do you plan to collect registrations for the event? Yes No

PROMOTIONAL PLAN:

Do you plan to create a promotional graphic or flyer for event? Yes No

Would you like MLC to create a promotional graphic for this event? Yes No

If yes, include all details and any suggestions on what the vision is:

What date range would you like promotions to run? (Unless otherwise requested, info will be included in announcement sheet and weekly E-News.) February 26 - March 15

A written announcement is advisable regardless of flyers and graphics. Please submit that via email to office@messiahknoxville.org. Event specific emails can be requested by emailing office@messiahknoxville.org Otherwise it will be included in weekly E-News and bulletin announcement sheets.

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS:

Is audio or video system support needed? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the audio & video system needs: Hand held microphone in Fellowship Hall for emcee

If outdoors, are covered areas needed? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the covered areas:

OUTSIDE AND LIGHTING NEEDS:

If outdoors, will there be lighting needs? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe lighting needs:

If outdoors, does the parking lot need to be restricted during the event? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the restricted parking areas:

Will assistance be needed after the event to remove non-church owned items? Yes No

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SHARE:

FACILITY USE FEES (Fill in Total Amount in Second Bullet in the Agreement below)

- Kitchen, cold storage and prep only (not using stove/oven): \$10 per hour
- Kitchen, full use: \$20 per hour (birthday parties, anniversary, etc.)
- Old Narthex: \$10 per hour
- Fellowship Hall (no kitchen use): \$10 per hour
- Courtyard: \$10 per hour
- Nave/Sanctuary: \$20 per hour
- Additional Rooms/Classrooms: \$10 per hour
- Library: No charge
- Early Access Fee (for your group to set up): No charge
- Deposit (refundable): Replacement value of anything that is destroyed/damaged
- Audio/Visual Fee: No charge
- Music Fee: Determined by Director of Music
- Custodial Fee: Determined by Council President

Agreement

- I/we have read the Facility Use Policy and Facility Use Expectations and agree to abide by all rules and expectations set forth therein.
- I/we agree to pay MLC the amount of 0.00 for the use of the church facilities as detailed above.
- I/we agree that all fees and deposits will reach MLC at 6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, one week in advance of the use start date. If donations are not paid and cleared before the use start date, permission for the use of the MLC facility may be revoked.
- I/we agree to abide by the expectations spelled out in this document and to complete the Departure Check List(s) and Church Key Agreement (if applicable). MLC agrees to provide the church facility as they are. (MLC does not provide set up or cleaning.) Fees will defray costs for air conditioning/heating, water, bathroom facilities, janitorial service, and electricity.
- I/we agree to return the used facility to the configuration and condition in which we found it.
- I/we agree to hold MLC, congregational members, Congregation Council, and church personnel harmless and free of any claims of liability which may result from any injury or loss of property.
- I/we agree to accept full responsibility for any such claims from persons in attendance at this event. I/we agree to be liable for any damages or incident which may occur in connection with this event.

Hand signatures are required below. Typed names or e-signatures will not be accepted.

Signed: Michelle L. Wien

Date: 01/09/2026

Approved: _____

Date: _____



Grandmother - Mother - Daughter Luncheon

DRAFT

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come."
— Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Join us for a special afternoon to celebrate the beauty of faith, love, and legacy shared across generations as we gather in joy and connection.

Saturday, March 21, 2026

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

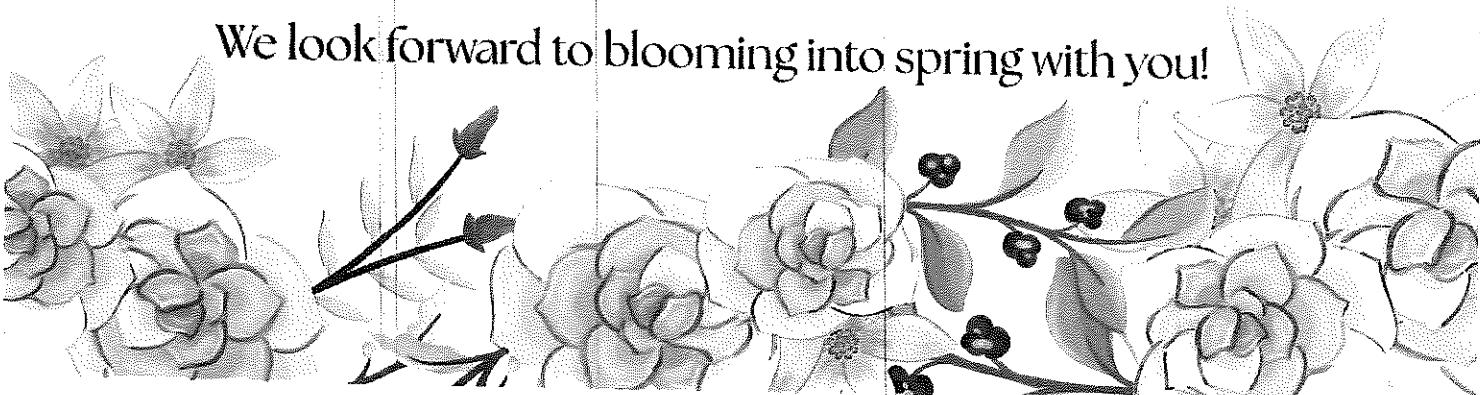
Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike | Knoxville, TN 37919

We invite grandmothers, mothers, daughters, and all women who nurture and inspire to come together for a delightful meal and meaningful time of fellowship!

Tickets are available for purchase on March 18th.

Adults \$10 each | Children 6 & Under are free

We look forward to blooming into spring with you!



Facility Use Agreement – Non-MLC Member

This form is to be completed by the responsible person for any non-worship or non-ministry event that takes place in the Messiah Lutheran Church (MLC) facility and must be on file at least four weeks prior to the start date of the event. Check area/room availability with the Administrative Assistant, the Property Committee, and the Audio/Visual Team prior to completing this form. The signed original will be kept on file in the church office; a copy will be provided to the responsible person upon request as confirmation of facility reservation. **Your date is not firm until deposit and signed agreement are on file.**

Please note:

- 1) It is your group's responsibility to leave the space as you found it.
- 2) Only use the sound system, computer, or the projector if you have received training. Once used, it MUST BE packed and stored the way it was found.
- 3) Funerals or other unforeseen church-related priorities take precedence over ALL scheduled activities. MLC reserves the right to cancel any activity if it becomes necessary to schedule a funeral.

Facility User Information

Name of Event: Moua Baby Shower

Sponsoring Organization: Moua family

Description of Event: Baby Shower for Madi and Demitrius

Date(s) of Use: Feb 7, 2026 Anticipated number in attendance: 125

Time of Event (beginning & end times): 12 - 4 Anticipated time of set up: 9 am

Area/Room(s) to be used: Fellowship Hall

Name & Position of Responsible Person: Brittany Vang - Parent

Address: 995 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Primary Phone Contact: 865-360-5330 Secondary Phone Contact: 865-360-5331

Email: sbmouafamily@gmail.com

EVENT SET UP:

*Will you need time before the event to set up? Yes No How much time? 3.5 hours

*Will you need time after the event to take down? Yes No How much time? 1.0 hours

**Note that charges start when set-up begins and end when take down is completed.)*

Are tables and chairs needed inside? Yes No Where are they needed? Fellowship Hall

If yes, you will need to transport them. You will also be responsible for setting up tables, chairs, etc.

Will you need to use MLC's tablecloths? Yes No *If yes, you will be responsible for washing them after the event.*

PROMOTIONAL PLAN: N/A

What date range would you like promotions to run? (Unless otherwise requested, info will be included in announcement sheet and weekly E-News.) N/A

A written announcement is advisable regardless of flyers and graphics. Please submit that via email to office@messiahknoxville.org. Event specific emails can be requested by emailing office@messiahknoxville.org Otherwise it will be included in weekly E-News and bulletin announcement sheets.

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS:

Is audio or video system support needed? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the audio & video system needs: Microphone for announcements

If outdoors, are covered areas needed? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the covered areas: _____

OUTSIDE AND LIGHTING NEEDS: N/A

If outdoors, does the parking lot need to be restricted during the event? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)

Describe the restricted parking areas: _____

Will assistance be needed after the event to remove non-church owned items? Yes No

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SHARE:

Sean and Brittany would like to host a baby shower for their son and daughter-in-law to include a lunch, a few games, and opening gifts.

FACILITY USE FEES (Fill in Total Amount in Second Bullet in the Agreement below)

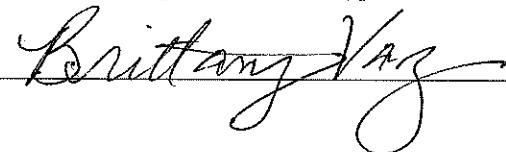
- Kitchen, cold storage and prep only (not using stove/oven): Catered meals, user supplies all items \$50 per hour
- Kitchen, full use: Groups that are selling through the window: \$100 for 3 hours. Groups that are catering (on site prep: \$200 for 3 hours) Catered meal. Church china & silverware, dishwasher to be used: \$100.00 per hour Meal prep on site: \$200.00 per hour
- Old Narthex: \$35 per hour (2 hours minimum)
- Fellowship Hall (no kitchen use): \$60 minimum for 3 hours - \$30 each hour after.* Charges will begin once set-up begins and conclude once cleanup is completed. It can include audio visual equipment but is not automatic. Individual needs will be assessed.
- Courtyard: \$20 per hour with 3 hours minimum

- Nave/Sanctuary: \$100 minimum for 3 hours - \$40 each hour after
- Additional Rooms/Classrooms: \$35 per hour (2 hours minimum)
- Library: \$35 per hour
- Early Access Fee (for your group to set up): \$10 per hour.
- Deposit (refundable): 50% of initial request.
- Audio/Visual Fee: \$35 per hour
- Music Fee: Determined by Director of Music
- Custodial Fee: Determined by Council President

Agreement

- I/we have read the Facility Use Policy and Facility Use Expectations and agree to abide by all rules and expectations set forth therein.
- I/we agree to pay MLC the amount of \$240.00 for the use of the church facilities as detailed above.
- I/we agree that all fees and deposits will reach MLC at 6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, one week in advance of the use start date. If donations are not paid and cleared before the use start date, permission for the use of the MLC facility may be revoked.
- I/we agree to abide by the expectations spelled out in this document and to complete the Departure Check List(s) and Church Key Agreement (if applicable). MLC agrees to provide the church facility as they are. (MLC does not provide set up or cleaning.) Fees will defray costs for air conditioning/heating, water, bathroom facilities, janitorial service, and electricity.
- I/we agree to return the used facility to the configuration and condition in which we found it.
- I/we agree to hold MLC, congregational members, Congregation Council, and church personnel harmless and free of any claims of liability which may result from any injury or loss of property.
- I/we agree to accept full responsibility for any such claims from persons in attendance at this event. I/we agree to be liable for any damages or incident which may occur in connection with this event.

Hand signatures are required below. Typed names or e-signatures will not be accepted.

Signed:  Date: 1/13/2026

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Facility Use Agreement – MLC Member

This form is to be completed by the responsible person for any non-takes place in the Messiah Lutheran Church (MLC) facility and must the start date of the event. Check area/room availability with the Ad Committee, and the Audio/Visual Team prior to completing this form file in the church office; a copy will be provided to the responsible person for facility reservation. **Your date is not firm until deposit and signed.**

2026 DATES

FEB 12, MAY 14,

AUG. 13 SEPT. 10

OCT 8, NOV 12

DEC 10

Please note:

- 1) It is your group's responsibility to leave the space as you found.
- 2) Only use the sound system, computer, or the projector if you have MUST BE packed and stored the way it was found.
- 3) Funerals or other unforeseen church-related priorities take precedence. MLC reserves the right to cancel any activity if it becomes necessary.

Facility User InformationName of Event: WEST HILLS GARDEN CLUBSponsoring Organization: WEST HILLS GARDEN CLUBDescription of Event: MEETINGDate(s) of Use: 2/12/26, 5/14, 8/13, 9/10, 10/19, 11/12, 12/10/26 Anticipated number in attendance: 10-14Time of Event (beginning & end times): 9:00 AM to 12 PM Anticipated time of set up: NoneArea/Room(s) to be used: Fellowship HallName & Position of Responsible Person: CONNIE SILVEY TREASURERAddress: 808 Cedar Bluff Rd., 37923Primary Phone Contact: 865-690-8023 Secondary Phone Contact: 865-693-2343 Ray BoneEmail: CFSLIVEY@BILLSOUTH.NET**EVENT SET UP:***Will you need time before the event to set up? Yes No How much time? _____*Will you need time after the event to take down? Yes No How much time? _____

*Note that charges start when set-up begins and end when take-down is completed.

Are tables and chairs needed inside? Yes No Where are they needed? _____If yes, do they need to be transported? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.)Will you need to use MLC's tablecloths? Yes No If so, you will be responsible for washing them after the event.Will you need assistance setting up tables, chairs, etc.? Yes No (Not guaranteed, but we will try.) Please provide a set-up sketch by attaching to this form. Attached Will be sent

Will assistance be needed after the event to remove non-church owned items? Yes No

ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SHARE:

FACILITY USE FEES (Fill in Total Amount in Second Bullet in the Agreement below)

- Kitchen, cold storage and prep only (not using stove/oven): \$10 per hour
- Kitchen, full use: \$20 per hour (birthday parties, anniversary, etc.)
- Old Narthex: \$10 per hour
- Fellowship Hall (no kitchen use): \$10 per hour
- Courtyard: \$10 per hour
- Nave/Sanctuary: \$20 per hour
- Additional Rooms/Classrooms: \$10 per hour
- Library: No charge
- Early Access Fee (for your group to set up): No charge
- Deposit (refundable): Replacement value of anything that is destroyed/damaged
- Audio/Visual Fee: No charge
- Music Fee: Determined by Director of Music
- Custodial Fee: Determined by Council President

Agreement

- I/we have read the Facility Use Policy and Facility Use Expectations and agree to abide by all rules and expectations set forth therein.
- I/we agree to pay MLC the amount of _____ for the use of the church facilities as detailed above.
- I/we agree that all fees and deposits will reach MLC at 6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, one week in advance of the use start date. If donations are not paid and cleared before the use start date, permission for the use of the MLC facility may be revoked.
- I/we agree to abide by the expectations spelled out in this document and to complete the Departure Check List(s) and Church Key Agreement (if applicable). MLC agrees to provide the church facility as they are. (MLC does not provide set up or cleaning.) Fees will defray costs for air conditioning/heating, water, bathroom facilities, janitorial service, and electricity.
- I/we agree to return the used facility to the configuration and condition in which we found it.
- I/we agree to hold MLC, congregational members, Congregation Council, and church personnel harmless and free of any claims of liability which may result from any injury or loss of property.
- I/we agree to accept full responsibility for any such claims from persons in attendance at this event. I/we agree to be liable for any damages or incident which may occur in connection with this event.

Hand signatures are required below. Typed names or e-signatures will not be accepted.

Signed: Kathleen Bone Date: 7-13-26

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Office

From: Judy Mennel <jamennel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 3:06 PM
To: Josh Moss
Cc: Office
Subject: Fellowship schedule for 2026

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Carolyn Lawhorn and Judy Mennel are the co-chairs of the Fellowship Committee. (Our team consists of Connie Cole, Anne Driskill, Angela Kronau, Cristall Mount, Alice Ramsey and Anne Tinker). We recently went over the dates for events we are responsible for in 2026. Just to keep you in the loop, here are the events, dates and other items we handle.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hours – This consists of 3 assignments, either arriving early to make coffee, providing treats for coffee hour or staying after to clean up. Carolyn or Judy will send out an email the previous month to the team to ascertain who is available to do what and when, followed up by an email with next month's assignments.

Lenten Wednesday night suppers – A sign up list will be on the bulletin board and adjustments made as necessary to ensure adequate amounts of food items. This year's dates are February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25.

Easter Brunch – April 5. The entire congregation is invited to attend as well as bring their food of choice to share. This usually appears in the bulletin and the weekly emails for a few weeks before Easter.

Summer Brunches – During the summer we have one brunch a month where all are invited to attend and bring a dish to share. This year the dates we have chosen are June 14, July 26 and August 23.

Confirmation Celebration. – No date for this year yet but, if there is a celebration needed we usually provide a cake with the names of those being confirmed on it and possibly light finger foods.

Stewardship Luncheon – Usually in October, no date yet. This can be either finger foods or a luncheon. The Stewardship committee head should coordinate with Fellowship a month or so in advance to advise their preference.

Advent Wednesday night suppers – Same format as Lenten suppers. Dates for 2026 are December 2, 9 and 16.

Blue Christmas – A few days before Christmas, no date yet. Fellowship will order food to be brought in. (In 2025 the Masons paid for this).

Supper Groups – Every year we poll the congregation to see who is interested in being in a supper group. For the past few years, we have had 3 groups with 6 to 8 people in each. Those groups will get together as many times as they like within the rest of the year. Some choose to go out to eat,

while others have the group to their homes. They can cook the entire meal themselves or make it a pitch-in. Sometimes games are played after the meal as well. (An email will be sent to Carrie asking her to send the invitation to all members inquiring about their desire to be in a group. Afterwards Carolyn and Judy will divide those interested into groups and let folks know who is in their group)

In addition, the Fellowship Committee has been asked on occasion to assist with a one-off event. In that case, we will do our best to accommodate but would appreciate as much advance notice as possible and reasonable requirements.

Please look these over and advise us of any questions you may have. If all is in order, we will send an email to Carrie to add these items to the church calendar.

Sincerely,
Judy



INVITE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Committee members present: Kate Spears, Michele Wilson, Angela Kronau, Larry Moeller, Deanna Moeller, Mike Flatford, Pastor Josh Moss Flatford, Mary Ellen Whitson (Council Liaison)

Meeting held: In Person & Via Zoom

After opening with a word of prayer, Michele shared feedback from the Worship Committee meeting. Basically we just need to have intentional conversations about events we are planning in order to think about the worship component as we **welcome people into a Worship-centered community where belonging is formed.**

New members will join the church this Sunday, January 11th. The old or standard New Member protocols weren't used this time. On Sunday, instead of calling up people who will be joining, he will ask folks who are interested in joining to stand and then he'll say the standard words of joining. These are the folks we think are joining and their 'mentors/shepherds/sponsors:

- Skippy Stacey - Michele Wilson
- Tyler Riley & Jerica Riley - Mary Ellen Whitson
- Nikki Lawson - Jessie Monson
- Anna & Chris Aker (and kids) - Jenny Adams
- Chris & Cynthia Coffey - Larry & Deanna Moeller & Bonnie Pederson
- Mike Flatford - Jon Driskill
- MJ Flatford - Cameron Driskill

Pastor Josh would like a volunteer to host a new member dinner at their home before Easter (approximately 20 people) to have a get to know you event. It would include the mentors/members of Council, etc. Governance and the church structure could be discussed. We would need to offer child care (on site). Potential locations could be the home of Don & Carolyn Lawhorn or Beth Ford/Mike Driskill.

Michele is providing cake and gluten free cupcakes. Deanna is preparing ice cream punch. The Moellers will provide punch cups. We have disposable plates and napkins. Michele will have pitchers of water ready. Larry Moeller has prepared a program and will serve as emcee. Storytelling will be a part of the program and we are all excited about that! Pastor Josh will open with prayer. He will need an accountability buddy to help get him into the Fellowship Hall. (Michele will help).

We followed up on Action Items from the last meeting. Here is a list of upcoming Worship Experiences with an Event component.

- Reconciling In Christ
 - February 8, 2026 - Reconciling in Christ Worship
 - During the Adult Learning Hour, we will try to pull together a panel of folks to discuss how to support our LGBTQIA+ community. Michele will reach out to folks at UTK.
- Boot Scootin' Boogey & Revival
 - Saturday, June 27, 2026 - Event & Outdoor Revival
 - Who will provide food?
- Rally Week
 - Saturday, September 12, 2026 - Watermelon Festival (to be developed)
 - Sunday, September 13, 2026 - 1 Year Anniversary of Pastor Josh's service at Messiah
- Season of Christmas
 - Saturday, November 7, 2026 - Holiday Market (with tours of the church / mini worship)
 - Sunday, November 8, 2026 - Worship (to be developed)

Action Items:

- Michele will prepare a Handout w/Holy Week Events and email to Jinger so that she can share via the neighborhood Facebook page. Instead of walking the neighborhood and having the 'Meet Our Pastor' open hour. It conflicts with the Synod Revival event on 3/14.
- Carrie will start sending Deanna the visitor list each Monday.
- We need to start personally filling out the red friendship folder every Sunday with all of the address information! We all need to model this and remind folks to do the same.
- We need to discuss bringing back the greeting program – meeting people in the parking lot, etc.

Topics for upcoming meeting discussion:

- Review of the 2021 Annual Report - Highlights from when a person approaches the church as a stranger to when they leave as a guest. (Appendix 2).
- Identify groups that we can serve intentionally - as people that care about one another. Offering hospitality that goes beyond stigmas:
 - Widows / Widowers
 - Mom's Group
 - Foster Kids that have aged out of the system
 - Families with Youth Children
 - Divorcees
 - Singles
 - Immigrants / Refugees

Date of next meeting: Thursday, February 12 @ 5:30 pm at Church.

Minutes submitted by Michele Wilson on January 9, 2026



WELCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Committee members present: Anne Tinker, Alice Ramsey, Cristall Mount, Debbie Hampstead, Michele Wilson

Meeting held: x In Person via Zoom

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from our last board meeting were approved.

We were pleased with the approximate headcount of 30 people at the Advent Tea. The lunch and program were very well received and we are thankful that Pastor Josh led us in worship & prayer.

Eighteen (18) women have signed up to be Secret Prayer Sisters. This number is low. Carrie will continue to 'advertise' this opportunity via the eNews. We should promote that it is about praying for one another - not necessarily gift giving.

The checks for Care Cuts of Knoxville and Lutheran Disaster Relief still haven't been deposited. Debbie Hampstead shared that Care Cuts would be depositing soon. She spoke with their accountant and a formal thank you letter should arrive soon. Anne Tinker will connect with Ingrid to find out the current state of the gift.

20 baskets to homebound members were delivered. Karen Clifton sent a gift as a way to show her gratitude. Michele Wilson will text Karen to let her know that check was received and we are thankful.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report - we have \$1,664.80 in the bank. Our \$300 Benevolence gift is due to Messiah in January 2026. The Care Cuts Egg Fund has a negative balance. WELCA will donate \$100 to this fund. Michele will email Cristall a copy of the flyer she created so that Carrie can promote the need for additional gifts to this ministry.

Save the Dates

- Grandmother - Daughter - Granddaughter Luncheon / Worship
 - Set-up & Waiter Orientation - Friday, March 20 @ 3:00 pm
 - Luncheon - Saturday, March 21 @ 11:30 - 1:30 (Eat at Noon)
 - Worship - Sunday, March 22
- WELCA General Meeting - Monday, April 6 at 6:15 pm (Fellowship Hall)
 - Dinner @ 6:15 pm
 - Speaker & Meal - TBD - Board Members will offer suggestions within the next month.
- WELCA Cluster Meeting - _____, April ___, 2026 @ _____
 - Anne Tinker will check with St. Paul's to get this information
- WELCA Convention - September 18-20 in Chattanooga, TN
- Holiday Market - Saturday, November 7
- Advent Tea - Saturday, December 5

Grandmother - Daughter - Granddaughter Spring Luncheon & Worship

- Theme: Bloom into Spring
- Decor: Pinks, Greens, Birdhouses, Mushrooms (As a courtesy, Michele will notify Deanna Moeller).
- Menu: Red Jello (on tables), Chicken Casserole, Green Beans, Roll, Cupcakes with Pastel colored icings, Coffee, Ice Tea(s), Lemonade, Water - Food will be prepared and by Women of WELCA.
- Entertainment: Music played during lunch (from 12 noon to 12:30) Ideas:
 - Hart Strings Violinists - Mary Phillips will ask, but we need to look at a plan B.
 - Sweet Adalines' - Anne Tinker will ask
 - Appalachian Men's Group - Anne Tinker will ask
- Tickets are \$10 each (kid's price?) Tickets will be sold at the church on March 1, March 8 and March 15. WELCA members will also be encouraged to sell / purchase tickets.
- Logistics & Advertising
 - Michele will create a flyer for the group to review / approve.
 - We need to create a large poster display to use at the 'ticket selling' spot (in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall). Is there a volunteer?
 - Michele will complete the Facility Use Agreement Form and get it submitted.
- Emcee: Michele has asked Amber Lynn Carroll, host of WATE's Living East Tennessee, to serve as the emcee and share a personal story (womankind, mother/daughter/grandmother relationship). Michele will keep the group updated.
- Volunteers:
 - Bonnie Pederson - will get 'favors' for the tables
 - Debbie Hampstead & Michele Wilson - Kitchen Managers
 - BAM - Set up & Servers - Anne Tinker will connect with BAM

Women's Worship Component

- Intern Jessica is available to lead worship on Sunday, March 22. Deacon Jane Mason and Mary Phillips, Director of Music, will work hand in hand with Jessica.
- Additional Note following our meeting:
 - As the founder of luncheon, Illy Wood will be recognized during the worship service. Michele Wilson will purchase the altar flowers in her honor.

Future of WEE Care

- Helga Wagner is resigning as coordinator. Kathy Gotcher will be asked if she would like to step into leadership.
- Hospital aren't needing these gowns like they used too. After the April meeting, this ministry will be re-evaluated.

Annual Report

- Anne Tinker will prepare the 2025 WELCA Annual Report for the February Congregational meeting.

Nominating Committee for April Elections

- Instead of a nominating committee, we will ask people individually
- President - We need to fill this position. Anne Tinker is willing to walk alongside the new president. Nikki Lawson would be a good person to ask.
- Treasurer - Alice Ramsey is willing to continue to serve.
- Secretary - Michele Wilson is willing to continue to serve.

WELCA Committees

- Anne Tinker passed out the WELCA Committee guidelines to be discussed at a future meeting.

ACTION ITEMS FOR COUNCIL

NA

Next WELCA Board Meeting: Date and time to be determine

Minutes submitted by: Michele Wilson

Director of Music - Annual Report 2025

On January 1, 2023, I assumed the responsibilities of Director of Music and Organist, so I have now completed three full years at Messiah. Highlights for 2025 are listed below.

Special soloists/instrumentalists:

The choir sang approximately twice a month, and the bell choir once a month throughout the year. In addition, we had the following special music and instrumentalists:

January 5 – Epiphany Service – We had “three kings” process and sang “We Three Kings.”

January 12 – Service cancelled due to snow and ice.

January 26 – Rhythm instruments on HOD for emphasis on missions in Spain and Guatemala; Mandolin, String Bass and Guitar on the offertory anthem presented by Pastor Dave and Phylis Bradford and Rick Christian.

February 16 – We had flute with the choir anthem and drum and rhythm instruments on the final hymn.

February 23 – The flute choir played the prelude.

March 5 – We had Ash Wednesday services at noon and 6:15 pm.

March 9 – The flute choir played at the offertory.

Sunday, March 16 – the choir sang at the offertory with accompaniment by Mike Driskill on saxophone.

Sunday, March 30 – Mary Williamson sang a solo during communion.

Sunday, April 6 – the flute choir played for the service.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday – the choir sang two anthems, and we had a guest trumpeter.

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – the women of the choir sang, and Mary Williamson sang Psalm 22.

Easter Sunday, April 20 – the choir sang two anthems, and we had a brass quartet for the hymns, sung liturgy, prelude and postlude.

Sunday, May 4 – the bells played an African piece in honor of David Achodo, who preached that day.

Sunday, May 11 – Evan Ciorciari played a trombone solo as prelude.

Sunday, May 18 – Rick Christian played guitar and sang for the offertory.

Sunday, May 25 – Confirmation Sunday – children, bells, flute, piano and choir on the anthem.

Sunday, June 1 – Mary Williamson sang a solo for the offertory.

Sunday, June 15 – the flute choir played the prelude.

June 22 - Viola solo by Joshua Sudler, our scholarship student.

June 29 - Evan Ciorciari played trombone during the prelude.

July 6 - Joan McGinnis played the organ in my absence, and Rick Christian played the guitar and sang during the offertory.

July 13 - The flute choir played during the prelude.

July 27 – Pastor Dave and Phylis Bradford and Rick Christian played instruments and sang for the offertory.

August 3 – Debbie Roser sang solos during the offertory and communion. Chloe Waller played an oboe solo as the prelude.

August 6 – Service for Peace - Larry Warren was cantor and soloist.

August 10 – Pastor Dave and Phylis Bradford sang during communion; Paul Jones played guitar.

August 24 – The flute choir played the prelude.

August 31 – Joshua Sudler sang a solo for the offertory.

September 20 – For Pastor Josh's Ordination Service, the choir sang, and the bell choir and flute choir also played.

September 28 – The flute choir played the prelude; we added drum, triangle and tambourin to the closing hymn - Canticle of the Turning.

October 12 – The flute choir played the prelude, and the choir sang at the offertory with flute and piano accompaniment.

October 19 – The Joy-Filled Band played for the service.

October 26 – Reformation Sunday – The brass quartet played and the choir sang.

November 2 – All Saints Day – The Joy-Filled Band played for the service.

November 9 – Youth Sunday - Evan Ciociari played trombone for the prelude; Chloe and Emma Waller played a duet for flute and oboe during the offertory.

November 30 – The Joy-Filled Band played for the service.

December 7 – Joshua Sudler played the viola for the prelude; Jenny Adams played flute during communion.

December 14 – The flute choir played the prelude; Rachel McCormick played a flute solo at the offertory,

December 24 – 30 minutes of prelude music in addition to the service music:

Liz Nelson - cello

Joshua Sudler - viola

Chloe Waller – oboe

Emma Waller – flute

Bell choir anthem

Women of the Choir anthem

Two anthems by the choir accompanied by oboe and flute; triangle, drum and finger cymbals.

December 28 – We had a “Carol Sing” during the service.

Lenten Services:

We sang Taizé hymns and added Instrumentalists for each of the Wednesday evening services:

Jenny Adams, Rachel McCormick and Emma Waller – flute

Jenny Adams - cello

Chloe Waller – oboe
Chris Warren – violin
Pastor Dave Bradford – mandolin
Phylis Bradford – string bass
Mike Driskill – saxophone
Mary Phillips - piano

Advent Services:

We had advent services of Holden Evening Prayer with the following musicians:

Larry Warren, leader
Mary Williamson, leader
Joshua Sudler, leader
Rachel McCormick, flute
Jenny Adams, flute
Mary Phillips, piano

Bell Choir:

The bell choir meets on Wednesdays at 6 pm each week, with alternate schedules during Lent and Advent due to Wednesday evening services. They play approximately once a month in the service.

The Bell Choir participated in the Knox Area Handbell Festival at Grace Lutheran Church on April 4-5. There was a concert at 4 pm on Saturday, April 5, at the conclusion of the festival, which was free and open to the public.

Choir:

The choir meets each week on Wednesdays at 7 pm. We also have optional Saturday morning rehearsals on the first Saturday of each month, to accommodate members who do not drive at night.

We set our summer schedule for the choir and bells to provide music once a month, with rehearsals after the Sunday morning service the week prior.

Chris Warren and Carolyn Lawhorn mended our choir robes as needed and washed all of them during the summer months.

Children's Music:

Jenny Adams meets with the children for 15 minutes of music prior to Sunday School each week following the 9:30 service.

We had children joining the adult choir for a special anthem on Confirmation Sunday, May 25. The anthem was accompanied by piano, flute and bells.

Music Camp:

We offered a music camp June 9-13 for Messiah children, grandchildren of members, members of other Lutheran churches and the community in general. We learned a musical about Noah's Ark and performed that for the family and friends at the conclusion of the week.

We had classes in art, puppets and Orff instruments and had two choral rehearsals each day. The children made rain sticks, rainbows and other art pieces that were used in the musical performance. They also tie-dyed shirts which they wore in the final program.

We asked each participant to bring a package of cookies and a white T-shirt as their cost for the week. We had refreshments mid-morning with lemonade and cookies.

We had an excellent week with the children and had our final performance on Friday, June 13: puppets presenting the story of Noah and the Ark, demonstration of the Orff instruments, and presentation of our 20-minute musical. Thanks to Jenny Adams and Pastor Dave Bradford (puppets), Anne Driskill (art), Kay Bone (refreshments). I taught the music and Orff instrument classes, and Jenny Adams assisted in both these areas. We had 3 teenage helpers: Jack Parrott (Carrie Parrott's son) and Charlotte Rusk and Elias Rusk (Judy and Sonny Mennel's grandchildren).

We shared pictures from music camp, and Anne Tinker made a lovely poster board for the Narthex.

Flute Choir:

The flute choir practices monthly after church on Sundays, and plays generally once a month for the services.

Sound System:

We worked with Randy Miller from AVCO who installed the sound upgrade on February 24-25, with training on February 27. We have been monitoring the services online to hear the changes. We have greatly improved the online experience with better clarity of sound, ability to hear the congregation singing, better blend from the choir sound, clear sound from the bell choir and better balance with the cantor. The last piece of equipment, a wireless microphone for the piano, was installed on March 10.

Met with Pastor Josh and i4C (our technology group) to discuss ongoing improvements to the streamed services and to eliminate feedback in the live services.

Thanks so very much for funding from the Badenhop, Creekmore and Memorial funds.

Other Church Activities:

My daughter and I attended the Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter luncheon on February 8.

I meet regularly with the Worship Committee.

Played for funeral for Penny McMillan on March 1.

Recorded music on the John Brock house organ for the family, as they are attempting to sell the instrument.

Played for Kari McClure's funeral May 17.

Completed filing of choir anthems, including updating the catalog for new anthems.

Wrote composers/arrangers for permission to stream music not included in One License.

Played for the July 13 funeral for Steven Walters.

I attended the WELCA luncheon on August 2.

Prepared the Cantor schedule quarterly.

Met with the staff and the prospective pastor on Thursday, August 14.

Played for the funeral for Felix Revira on August 15.

On September 10, we hosted the Guatemala Gathering at Messiah, and we held a Holden Evening Prayer with Mary Williamson as cantor and Rachel McCormick and Jenny Adams on flute, along with piano accompaniment.

I accompanied Chloe Waller on her Oboe Recital, September 13, 4 pm in the Sanctuary.

Planned music along with Pastor Josh for his Ordination Service on September 20. The bell choir, flute choir and chancel choir participated in the service.

Pastor Josh and I planned Youth Sunday, November 9.

I was away August 24 and September 14 due to a death in my family.

Planned music for the funeral for Dinah Brock. Jim Garvey was able to substitute for me, as a family friend to the Brocks.

My absence while recovering from surgery:

I tripped and broke my hip on October 17. I was away while I recovered from hip surgery, but was fortunate to find a wonderful organ substitute, Marianne Barbour, who played the organ and carried out all the music plans that I had made. The Joy-Filled Band was wonderful to step up and play during the Sundays Marianne was not available.

I have worked from home to coordinate carrying out the plans that had been made previously:

- Coordinated getting an organ sub and getting all the music to her for the brass rehearsal on Tuesday, October 21 in preparation for Reformation Sunday.
- Coordinated with Marianne Barbour, all music scores for special music for Reformation Sunday and other Sundays in November and December.
- Planning completed for Youth Sunday, November 9. Evan Ciorciari played the prelude on trombone. Chloe and Emma Waller played at the offertory a flute/oboe duet with piano accompaniment. Coordinated the rehearsal times for each of the youth instrumentalists.
- Coordinated the continuation of choir and bell choir rehearsals.

My goal was to make sure all music plans were completed and at no extra expense to the church, so I have contributed funds to cover the organ substitute expense.