

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
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 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:

Lunch: Paul Jones

UPCOMING DATES:

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

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