

**Messiah Lutheran Church ELCA- Council Meeting**  
*Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 12 noon | Fellowship Hall Messiah*

**Members present:** Judy Mennel, Rick Christian, Angela Kronau, Cristall Mount, Susan Hamilton, Martha MacCabe, Pastor Mark Cerniglia, Steve Hess

**Members absent:** Jack Wilder, Carolyn Lawhorn, Mary Ellen Whitson  
**e t** Tom Cole, Michele Wilson

2025 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL		
Name	Term Ends	Title/Liaison
Pastor Mark Cerniglia		
Rick Christian	2027	BADENHOP / PERSONNEL
Susan Hamilton	2026	CARE/CONNECT
Davin Henrik	2026	PERSONNEL/INVITE
Steve Hess	Appointed	
Angela Kronau	2025	POLICY
Carolyn Lawhorn	2026	BAM / DISCIPLE
Martha MacCabe	2027	WORSHIP / STEWARDSHIP
Judy Mennel	2027	FINANCE
Cristall Mount	2026	FELLOWSHIP/WELCA/PROPERTY
Jon Toth	Appointed	
Jack Wilder	2025	SERVE / D&J

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Call to Order:** Angela called the meeting to order at noon.
- 2. Opening Devotion by Angela Kronau**  
In absence of Mary Ellen Whitson; Angela led the devotion using Matthew 5:13. This passage we are reminded that Jesus compares his followers to salt and light in the world; urging them to preserve goodness and shine brightly.
- 3. Approval of March 2025 Minutes**  
It was noted that Phillip Gulley, a Quaker pastor, was the author and reference of the March devotion that Judy Mennel shared. Judy M. made a motion to approve the March Minutes, Susan Hamilton seconded the motion and Council approved the motion unanimously.
- 4. Stewardship Update-** Tom Cole, leader of the Stewardship committee, requested that council pass a resolution establishing a moratorium of all funding raising activities by or on behalf of the congregation, sponsored organizations and outside organizations, including any publicity, e-news, appeals during worship services, appeals on the congregational website, and meetings of sponsored activities, beginning September 17, 2025 through October 26, 2025. This will help with "donor fatigue" and will allow only the stewardship fund raising drive for the congregation's general fund. Also to separate the fund appeal from the appeal for time and talent. Tom recommended reading "Stewardship 101" and "Giving to God" by Mark Allen Powell. Ask the congregation to give 13 months of giving in a 12 month period and the congregation to pray about increasing their giving. Judy made a motion to accept this request, Rick seconded; unanimously approved.

5. **Columbarium Fee Increase** - Tom Cole requested on behalf of the Columbarium Trustees that council approved pricing for the 32 new columbarium niches as follows: \$1,000 for a sign niche; \$1,800 for two niches. Cristall made a motion to approve this request; a second was made by Judy Mennel; all approved.
6. **Finance Update – Steve Hess**  
Steve H. updated Council on the March and April financials. See April Finance report for other items of note.
- **2025** April Income and Spending plan **\$29,648** per month
  - **April General Fund Income** was **\$3,746 above plan**. (13%)
    - o General Fund income is **\$4,832 below** plan YTD. (4%)
    - o General Fund Income is **\$10,689 below** last year at this same time. (9%)
  - **April General Fund Expenses** were **\$3,831 below Plan**.
    - o General Fund Expenses are **\$9,403 below** plan YTD.
    - o General Fund Expenses are **\$14, 816 below** last year at this same time.
  - **April General Fund Unrestricted Cash** reserves have increased to **\$38,075**
    - o This is **5.6** weeks worth of cash.
    - o No extra spending recommended until we decide on the pastor pay package.
    - o At this level of unrestricted cash, I recommend General Fund spending at plan.
7. **Approval of New Pastor Compensation Plan - Presented by Angelia and Steve.**  
The proposed new pastor compensation plan was presented totaling \$93,549. This is \$5,580 more than the 2025 budget plan allowed. After much discussion about various reductions of spending to compensate for the new Pastor compensation package; it was decided to reduce Synod giving by \$5,580 this year. The new pastor's moving and travel expenses of approximately \$4,000 +/- (based on the last pastor's move) shall be taken from the unrestricted cash. Judy made a motion to accept and Rick seconded; all approved.
8. **Technology Support for Messiah (AvonaTech vs. i4C)**  
Michele Wilson presented the differences between using our current support by AvonaTech and a new company i4C. After discussion of the pros and cons of each. It was recommended to the council that i4C be hired for our tech support. The cost of initial setup will be \$1,485 plus \$349 a month for basic services of telecom and wifi. Any troubleshooting onsite or remote will be at the cost of \$200 for the 1st hour and \$125 every hour after. See Michele presentation for details of differences. Judy made a motion to approve and Susan seconded; all approved.  
It was also proposed that use of the undesignated memorial funds be used for the initial setup cost. of \$1,485 and to overspend monthly on our current phone plan for the remainder of the year. Martha made a motion to approve and Rick seconded; All approved.
9. **Correspondence, updates, building use requests, etc.**  
Several Building Use Agreements were noted in the council packet. It was noted that the Executive Committee is now to review and approve these and future requests. No action taken.

**10. Committee Reports - no further actions needed.**

**11. Extension of Pastor Mark's Contract**

- Pastor Mark updated Council on his contract extension due to the expectation that the earliest Messiah might have a pastoral candidate to vote on will now come no earlier than June. For that reason, he requests that Council extend his contract through August, 2025. Martha M. made a motion to extend Pastor Mark's contract through August, 2025. Susan moved to accept and Judy seconded; All approved.

**12. Change date of June Council meeting**

Since the regularly scheduled Council meeting in June falls on June 15th which is Fathers Day this year, Council agreed to change the June meeting date to June 22nd. New council meeting time this summer will be 11:00 instead of noon.

**13. Other Business**

- A housekeeping reminder will be sent out in the E-News about making sure lights are turned off and doors securely locked.

**14. Adjourn with prayer**

- Angela. requested that Council adjourn the meeting.. Judy made a motion to adjourn and Rick seconded the motion; all approved.

- **Submitted by: Cristall Mount in Carolyn Lawhorn absence**  
**Date: May 19, 2025**

***NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Sunday, June 22 at 11:00 am***

***Devotion & Meal: Martha MacCabe***

***UPCOMING DATES: Council Reports Due to Carrie: Wednesday, June 11, 2025***

***Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm via Zoom***