

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2024**

*Called into community, gifted to serve.*  
*Glorifying God through love in action.*

Present: Pastor Aileen Robbins, Joanne Niemi, Janet Graves-Wright, Laurie Simonson, Sheri Treadwell, Amy Trichanh, Paul Williams, Mark Sutliff, Jim Hartmann, Shelly Knapp, and Andy Mitchell. Amy Trichanh was absent. We met via Zoom.

**Devotions and Opening Prayer** – Joanne started our meeting with an opening prayer.

Joanne led the meeting.

**Financial Reports** – Janet included this during our budget discussion.

**Ministry Team Reports**

- Pastor Aileen:
  - Lenten ecumenical series schedule. Pastor discussed an ecumenical expanded series for Lent. Pastor said we had positive feedback from the 2023 Lenten series, and the services were well attended, especially Good Friday. Pastor would like to expand the worship opportunities in 2024. She proposed Maundy Thursday to be at Trinity Episcopal with Pastor Aileen preaching. Good Friday will be at the Baptist church. We will have Fat Tuesday at Messiah and all ecumenical congregations will be invited. Cathy needs to have the details so they can be disseminated. We did a visual vote, and this proposal was approved unanimously.
  - Motion to approve an increase to Pastor Aileen’s housing allowance. We discussed the increase from \$32,000 to \$34,260. Janet made the motion to approve an increase in Aileen Robbins’ Housing Allowance to \$34,260 per year (\$1472.50 per pay period) effective February 1, 2024. Paul seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. This does not change Pastor Aileen’s total defined compensation. It does allow this portion of her compensation to be exempt from some federal taxes.
- Budget 2024. Janet sent revised reports that we discussed through screen sharing. Reports included the 2023 Actual vs 2024 Projected Income Breakdown, 2023 Actual to Budget Worksheet (from Gene), and our 2024 Budget Worksheet. Questions were asked and answered to the best of our ability. We proposed changes and revisions were made to Janet’s spreadsheets. We updated the ELCA contribution, and the new budget total is \$358,871.

We do not have the complete financial data for the entire year; only the first 3 quarters. Health and family medical emergencies have impacted getting results for October, November, and December. We reviewed the constitution and bylaws regarding the financial audit that needs to take place prior to the Financial Forum. For transparency, we will ask that an audit is done for January through September of 2023. Janet will reach out to potential audit team members: Gary Cattleberry, Martha Littlejohn, Wayne Reabold, or Ladd Dromgold.

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Annual Reports should be sent to Cathy.
- January 28 Financial Forum – In person. (Andy will run the slides and Joanne will lead, Janet will respond to questions).
- February 4 Annual Meeting – Hybrid. Short Council meeting after the Annual Meeting.
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**Next Meeting**

**Council Meeting** – Thursday, February 8, 2024  
Devotions & prayer – Pastor Aileen

**Closing Prayer** – Andy closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson