

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 9, 2026

Minutes

- Present:** Bertel Anundson, Eileen Cordray, Phyllis Paulsen, Kay Schell, Joyce Washburn, Mark Washburn, Calista Wolf.
- I. Call to Order: Calista Wolf called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m.
 - II. Devotions: Provided at Parish Council. Our parish star word is enthusiasm. Discussion continued on serving with joy and enthusiasm, even when it is hard.
 - III. Approval of Agenda: Motion to accept the agenda as presented by Mark Washburn, second by Eileen Cordray. Motion carried.
 - IV. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for January 20, 2026 were reviewed with a motion from Joyce Washburn to approve the minutes as presented, second by Kay Schell. Motion carried.
 - V. Parish Council Updates:
Baudette Lutheran Parish will join the Chamber of Commerce.
All three congregations will work on updating their active membership lists.
Plan to send Baptism Birthday Cards – updating the records.
 - VI. Financial Reports:
Treasurers report - Mark Washburn provided a written report. Expenses are as expected.
Financial report – Eileen Cordray provided a written report.
Motion by Kay Schell to accept the financial reports as presented and place on file. Second by Phyllis Paulsen and motion carried.
 - VII. Old Business:
 - A. Active Member List – Those present reviewed the active membership list and provided updates. Names are not removed from the membership list but will be noted as an inactive member. Council members are encouraged to make contact with members who are no longer attending and let these individuals or families know we miss their presence during Sunday worship. Noted there are members who are not able to attend but continue to provide offerings or participate in the work of the church in other ways.
 - B. Job Descriptions – Plan to work on job descriptions for the council positions and update the general job description. We started work on this last year. Job descriptions are a helpful guide as we try to recruit new council members each year.
 - C. Outdoor Clean-Up – The Garden of Grace Committee will meet in April and provide a list of spring duties. We will watch the weather and plan for a cleanup event in May. We can usually gather a group on short notice.
 - D. Live-Stream Video – Equipment is here and the worship service was streamed on March 8. Calista is looking for assistance in operating the livestream for Sunday Services. Let her know if you know of someone who would be willing to learn.
 - E. Follow up to “Behold” presentation in November 2025 - Jody Johnson from NW Synod office provided information on a new opportunity for parish or individual congregations. Calista reported we would not be participating at this time. It would be a long-term commitment and would require dedicated individuals and time.
 - VIII. New Business:
 - A. Member at Large – Bertel Anundson is willing to fill our member at large council position. The bylaws were reviewed and the church council may appoint a new member when there is a vacancy. Kay Schell made a motion to appoint Bertel Anundson to fill the member at large council position. Joyce Washburn seconded the motion. MC. Thank you, Bertel.

B. The Great NW MN Synod Get Together – Register by 3/13/26. The event is on March 21st in Bemidji. Contact Calista if you are interested. The registration fee is \$50.00.

C. NW MN Synod Assembly – Saturday, May 30, 2026. The assembly will be a virtual event this year. There is a registration fee. Let Calista know if you are interested in attending. We can gather as a group and watch on a large screen or individually from home.

IX. Committee Reports:

Education –

Planning on VBS with Pathways in June. Will likely have another VBS session for younger children at another time. Will need adult and student volunteers. Will be working to set up Sunday School in the fall.

Property (John Sopkowiak) unable to attend

a) Sanctuary lighting – bulbs left to replace, need a lift or scaffold

b) Repairs in Lower Sunday School Rooms – still needs to be done but not as urgent since we no longer have Faith Fridays.

c) Will need to check the cameras at the entrance and the playground. Jeff Bauers placed them some time ago.

d) Lawn mower should be serviced before we begin the summer mowing season. Bertel reports that Don Smith will continue to coordinate the mowing schedule. He has a good list of volunteers.

Worship and Music (Council Position Open)

Discussion that this council position could be filled by anyone interested in altar guild, ushers, someone interested in finding scripture readers for Sundays, lay leaders, etc. The individual would not have to be involved in music as most of the hymn selection and planning is completed for the parish by Calista with input from the musicians. Joyce Washburn reports they are finding people to learn how to run the Clavinova to fill in when Sue Smith is not available to play for worship. The choir continues to meet weekly.

FLCW – (no report)

X. Future Meetings/Deadlines:

Parish Council – Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

First Lutheran Council – Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Beacon Deadline – March 20, 2026

XI. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: Motion by Mark Washburn to adjourn, second by Eileen Cordray. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by
Kay M. Schell