

**Agenda**  
**Congregational Council**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

**1. Devotions (15 minutes) on Chapters 1-2 of *Strength to Love***

**2. Approval of March Minutes**

**3. Discussion Items**

a. At the March Council meeting it was agreed that clearer guidelines for accessing Foundation funds need to be crafted and that this should be a topic of discussion at the April Council meeting. Jeff McLaughlin, representing the Foundation, will attend and go over the procedures that the Foundation has devised. Here is a link to their current draft:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cu5DGrqcm9vYXRq2H2ir\\_rIGnFIF8TMTyIpgNLjxf74/edit?usp=s\\_haring](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Cu5DGrqcm9vYXRq2H2ir_rIGnFIF8TMTyIpgNLjxf74/edit?usp=s_haring)

b. Evangelism and Communication Board would like some clarification regarding their budget for 2025 (see Board minutes).

c. Benevolence and Social Concerns Board would like some feedback on the idea of creating St. John's t-shirts for volunteers and youth participating in summer camps for community outreach and congregational connection - possibly to be funded by a Foundation grant.

d. Worship and Arts Board would like the Council to discuss a preliminary suggestion for a Foundation grant to update the PA and streaming systems (see Board minutes).

e. The Youth Board has requested that the Council discuss LOFTY (Lights Out For The Youth), a congregational initiative funded by the Foundation, in part executed by the youth of St. John's. Anika Rychner will spearhead the discussion.

**4. Financial Report**

Update from Treasurer Judd Lohman.

**5. Action Items**

none

**6. Pastors' Reports (see addendum)**

a. Pastor Fickenscher

b. Pastor Davis

## **5. Old Business**

none

## **6. New Business**

a. Mortgage celebration update

## **7. Future Dates**

Board Night: Tuesday, May 13th, 7 pm

Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 27th, 7 pm

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## **Addendum:**

### **Pastors' Reports**

Pastors' Council Report for April 2025

### Official Acts

Memorial service for John Ferguson, March 28

### Worship Life

Worship is the whole story for this month. We had particularly strong attendance for Lenten Wednesdays all through the season this year. With Easter falling outside all the schools' spring breaks, we centered more of our catechism and confirmation teaching around preparing youth for understanding Holy Week and the season of Easter.

We will switch to one service for the summer beginning on Memorial Day weekend, May 25.

### CYF

Programming is in the transition season as we prepare to celebrate the end of the year and work on summer engagement. We have just a few weeks post-Easter to wrap up Sunday School and Wednesday sessions. St. John's will host Vacation Bible School this year in the second week of June. Camp and

Youth trip registrations are doing well and we are happy to see that the post-pandemic reluctance to do overnight camps seems to be fading.

### Facilities

We happily got our new routers installed to boost wifi in the Undercroft and Library this month. This will be helpful not only to our Council and committees but also to the many outside groups that use these rooms.

### Social Concerns

We were grateful for the timely update from Global Refuge/ LIRS on April 6. Our representative from Lutheran World Relief will be here on April 27 to preach and give a forum as well.

A community meeting in support of immigrants in Northfield met on April 7. Pastor Jonathan is on the small task force working to coordinate community support for undocumented neighbors and others who are living in fear now.