Agenda
Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
November 17th, 2026

1. Devotions (15 minutes) on Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination* chapter six on Jesus' ministry.

2. Approval of October Minutes

3. Financial Report

See addendum #1 (below) for Treasurer's Report.

4. Action Items

Council will need to vote on a $1,000 Foundation grant request from St. John's WELCA to support SEMN Synodical WELCA's efforts to raise $10,000 for three youth programs. The request has already been approved by the Foundation board.

The St. John's Foundation reports that about $8,000 in funds remains unspent this year. The Foundation seeks a 33%/33%/33% breakdown between the church, Northfield, and the global community, and right now it is at 38%, 41%, and 21%. They suggest that gifts to some of our international partners would be an appropriate (and quick) way to spend this, and they ask that Council find a way to make this happen. Suggestions from the Executive Committee so far this week include: use $5,000 as a matching gift for the congregation's contributions to ELCA World Hunger in November; a $1,000 gift to Global Health Ministry to fund the transportation of the infant kits, hospice kits, bandages, and quilts that WELCA makes; a $1,000 gift to Lutheran World Relief to fund the transportation of the personal care kits, baby kits, school kits, and quilts that WELCA makes. Pam F. and Pam G.G. will write up grant requests for these, and Council will consider them at its November meeting.

5. Discussion Items

6. Pastors' Report

See addendum #2 (below) for Pastors' Report.

7. Board Updates

All Board budgets have now been submitted.

8. Old Business

9. New Business

Article 4 and Article 9 of St. John's Bylaws need some small changes to bring them in line with the 2025 changes to the model Constitution: pastor > rostered minister; ordained person > rostered minister. These changes will need to be voted on at the 2027 annual Congregational meeting.

10. Future Dates

Board Meetings on December 8th, 7 pm

Council Meeting on December 15th, 7 pm (a week early owing to the Christmas Holiday)

Addendum #1: Treasurer's Financial Report for October, 2026:

Total Operating Income is ($12k) below budget for the month of October, and ($128k) below budget YTD through October.

- Offering:
    - October offering was ($3k) below budget.
    - October YTD offering is ($53k) below budget.
    - 2026 October YTD offering is about $21k above 2025 YTD offering through October.

- Other Income
    - October YTD combined "Other Income" and "Other Gifts" is $2k above budget.
    - October YTD Designated and Foundation Funds are ($77k) below budget.

Total Operating Expense is ($3k) below budget for October, and ($64k) below budget YTD through October.

- Personnel was $1k over budget for October and $5k above budget YTD.
- No Boards are above budget YTD.
    - YTD Property and Grounds is ($24k) below budget
        - ($11k) Repairs & Maint. And ($11k) Snow Removal
    - YTD Benevolence is ($8k) below budget
    - YTD Worship, Music and Arts is ($7k) below budget

Net Income/(loss)

- Net Income for October is ($8k) above budget, and ($64k) below budget YTD.

I don't see any particular areas of concern at this time.

Addendum #2: Pastors' Report for November, 2026:

Official acts:

Funeral for Curt Swenson, November 13

Staff:

We are continuing to rethink what Wednesday music looks like, with changes to the Jubilate Choir director position being part of that discussion. Nathan is continuing to lead that 3-5 grade group while we rework the position description.

CYF:

Nick is preparing for two summer trips with youth – one to Camp Amnicon and the other to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. It is a little tricky to gage and balance interest between the two trips, but at the moment we believe we will have 18 going to Camp Amnicon and at least 15 going to the Youth Gathering.

Julie and Arielle are busy preparing for Christmas Sunday School Program and the Advent Fair. *Fika* (a coffee gathering for parents of Sunday school students) has been going well, with anywhere between 7 and 13 parents gathering each week.

Foundation:
The St. John's Foundation has been in conversations about professional management. The increased basis of the funds (now over 2 million, with a pending gift anticipated in 2027) means that financial management by volunteer committee seems less prudent. They have started the process of moving to management by the ELCA Foundation. The disbursement process will still be under St. John's guidance, and our investment guidelines will be honored, but the professional week-to-week management will be done by professionals.

Jeff McLaughlin notified us that about $8000 of discretionary disbursements remained for 2027, and suggested the Board welcomed gifts in the area of Global mission. Pastor Pam and the WELCA board have made requests to use those funds for global mission.

Around the community:

Many NAIA clergy took part in an election night vigil on November 3. Due to weather the event was moved from Bridge Square to Carleton's Chapel. About 30 people attended the vigil.