

**Agenda**  
**Congregational Council**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**(Zoom Meeting)**

**1. Devotions**

Discussion of Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination* chapter six on Jesus' ministry will be postponed until next month.

**2. Approval of September Minutes**

**3. Financial Report**

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

**4. Action Items**

We need two members of Council to serve as rotating members of the Budget Committee. Cheryl Buck and Andrea Hoff served this year. Jill Enestvedt and Dan Hanson will already serve next year as chairs of their respective boards. That leaves as potential candidates: Beth Cox, Ruthie Neuger, Olaf Hall-Holt, and Brian Evenson.

**5. Discussion Items**

**6. Pastors' Report**

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

**7. Board Updates**

**8. Old Business**

Olaf Hall-Holt asked last month if the Board Chairs would like to have the Adult Ministry & Education Board host a forum that would be devoted particularly to their Board's mission. Any response?

A reminder that the St. John's Foundation wishes to wait until the next calendar year to have a joint meeting with Council to discuss priorities and procedures. Any further planning required?

**9. New Business**

**10. Future Dates**

Board Meetings on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

Council Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm (n.b. one week early owing to the Thanksgiving Holiday)

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

Total Operating Income is (\$13k) below budget for the month of September, and (\$115k) below budget YTD through September.

- Offering:
  - September offering was (\$4k) below budget.
  - September YTD offering is (\$49k) below budget.
  - 2026 September YTD offering is about \$26k above 2025 YTD offering through September.
  
- Other Income
  - September YTD combined "Other Income" and "Other Gifts" is \$3k above budget.
  - September YTD Designated and Foundation Funds are (\$69k) below budget.

Total Operating Expense is (\$14k) below budget for September, and (\$61k) below budget YTD through September.

- Personnel was (\$1k) under budget for September and \$4k above budget YTD.
- No Boards are above budget YTD.
  - YTD Property and Grounds is (\$18k) below budget
  - YTD Benevolence is (\$11k) below budget
  - YTD Worship, Music and Arts is (\$7k) below budget

Net Income/(loss)

- Net Income for September is \$1k above budget, and (\$55k) below budget YTD.

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

**Addendum #2:** Pastors' Report for October, 2026:

**Official acts:**

Affirmation of Baptism, October 25

**Staff:**

We have such gratitude for Katie Fick's work as Bridge Pastor here. Her last act was preaching on the Sunday Pam returned, on October 18.

**CYF:**

We have had a great start to the program year. Welcome Fest on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> was a great time for our children and youth and members of the congregation. We are grateful to WELCA for donating the proceeds of the Meatball dinner to the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer!

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders had their Bible Retreat, and 11 Confirmands gathered for the Confirmation Breakfast in preparation for Affirmation of Baptism on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Sabbatical:**

Pam returned to work on October 18. A full list of sabbatical activities will be in the November issue of the Voice. I'm so grateful for this time to re-connect and refresh. I've learned a great deal and am excited to return to work.

**Around the community:**

Many, many conversations and meetings have happened in the past few months preparing for the midterm elections. We are following the direction of Minnesota's Secretary of State and have clear instructions on what to do if unauthorized persons or activities are present in the polling place. Most important is that polling place is defined as our whole property, including the parking lot. St. John's will take part in a prayer vigil on the evening of November 3 in Bridge Square, after polls close.