

**Agenda**  
**Congregational Council**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**February 24, 2026**

**1. Devotions (15 minutes) on Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination*** Reading assignment for devotions is chapter one, pages 1-9 (not the roman numerals).

**2. Approval of the January and February Minutes**

Minutes were sent to everyone earlier via CCB email.

**3. Financial Report**

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

**4. Action Items**

None

**5. Discussion Items**

St. John's Foundation update – Jeff McLaughlin

Worship and Arts

- a) Balcony space reconfiguration: The Evangelism & Communications Board wants more space in the balcony, but there are currently 3 tympani and a carillon stored in that space. There is no other place to store them. The carillon may not work. Nathan has tried to find new storage spaces for these instruments or give them away to new homes or even throw them away. It's hard to find anyone with expertise in the carillon.

We think the space reconfiguration will work, but finding space for the instruments and equipment currently in those spaces will take some time and work.

- b) Given the issues raised in the item above, we think adding the word “decommission” or something similar to clause (c) of the Worship & Arts bylaws may be in order so that the Board is authorized to make musical instrument end-of-useful-life decisions.

[[draw from Board minutes and discussion during Executive meeting]]

**6. Pastors' Report**

See Addendum #2 (below) for Pastors' Report. [[attach pastor's report below]]

**7. Old Business**

Update: Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. letter of engagement update

**8. New Business**

Approve Pastor's housing allowance for IRS purposes.

**9. Future Dates**

Board Night: Tuesday, March 10th, 7 pm

Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 24th, 7 pm  
Addendum #1

NOTES: St. John's January 2026 Treasurers Financial Report

Total Operating Income is (\$28k) below budget for the month of January.

- Offering:

o January offering was (\$19k) below budget.

o 2026 January offering was about \$15k above 2025 offering through January.

- Other Income

o January combined "Other Income" and "other Gifts" right on budget.

o No Designated and Foundation Funds were released in January, so these items are (\$9k) below budget.

Total Operating Expense is (\$27k) below budget for January.

- Personnel was (\$9k) below budget. Because of the timing of how salaries are paid, there will be one month where salaries are doubled up and this should be on target by year end.

- All other Board expense categories were (\$18k) below budget.

- We are still waiting for the savings from the Solar Panels to show up on our utility bills.

Net Income/(loss)

- The Net Income for January was (\$1K) below budget.

Addendum #2

Pastors' report            February 24, 2026

Official Acts:

Baptism for Claire Kuehn, January 25

Funeral for Don Starkweather, February 23

Worship:

It was delightful to have the St. Olaf Choir with us in worship on January 18. There were a lot of comments about how well the students interacted with the congregation during fellowship hour. Thanks to Angie Gehring and her crew for providing a hot breakfast for the singers that morning.

Ash Wednesday's attendance was robust despite winter weather. There was a very strong attendance for the evening meal, which we have not always had on this day. A big thank you to board volunteers helping to serve these Lenten soup suppers!

### Stephen Ministry

A new class of Stephen Ministers has completed their training. In the near future, we will be commissioning 8 new Stephen Ministers! Many thanks to the leadership team for making a training year possible.

### Children, Youth, and Family

Confirmation completed another year of J-Term, in partnership with St. Peter's and Bethel. Pastor Jonathan lead a 4-week series with High School Youth on "Christian Influencers of the 20 th Century."

The Youth Visioning Team will be finalizing a job description for our Director of Ministry with Youth and Families, with the hopes of posting the job opening on March 2 nd . Kristin Partlo will be leaving at the end of July to start her internship in August.

### Facilities

We continue to be in conversation with Xcel about getting our billing fixed. They have renewed the hold on our billing until June of this year.

### Community engagement

The surge of ICE presence in Minnesota in January dominated our hearts and our consciousness over the past six weeks. At this writing we are still seeing both fear in our immigrant community and ongoing economic impacts.

The positive response to the news of my participation in civil disobedience on January 23 was overwhelming. There have been only a couple voices that have expressed concern or disagreement, and we continue to invite further conversation with those folks.

We've also seen a surge in volunteering and gifts to the Community Action Center – here in Northfield and also gifts from beyond Minnesota. The needs for food and rent assistance will continue to be high, so you can expect that to be a focus during Minnesota FoodShare month.

In the month ahead we are looking forward to a mass Palm Sunday procession and witness in Saint Paul on the afternoon of March 29. This event will highlight the heart of our Christian faith – loving our neighbor, putting people before profit and power.

### Future opportunities:

We still have a spot open for the Synod Assembly on Saturday May 2. If you are interested in attending as a voting member, please let us know within the next month.