

Agenda
Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
July 22nd, 2025

1. Devotions (15 minutes) on Chapters 7-8 of *Strength to Love*

2. Approval of June Minutes

3. Financial Report

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

4. Discussion Items

- a. A member of the Stewardship Board raised concerns about perceived declining membership at St John's. The Board wonders if this is an actual or perceived issue.
- b. There are increasing funds available for benevolence, and there will apparently be more funds available in the future. How can we best involve the congregation in the work of the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board?
- c. The IRS has relaxed its strictures on the tax status of churches that endorse political candidates. Does this affect St. John's activity in the political realm in any way?
- d. Immigration officials are now allowed to enter public spaces, including the public areas of churches and schools, without a warrant, but they do need a warrant to enter private spaces, such as private offices and storage spaces. How does this affect St. John's approach to the matter?
- e. There are a limited number of spots available in the Columbarium. Another unit will be needed in the next year or so, costing upwards of \$42,000.

5. Action Items

6. Pastors' Report

- a. Pastor Fickenschier
- b. Pastor Davis

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Future Dates

Board Night: Tuesday, August 12th, 7 pm

Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 26th, 7 pm

Addendum #1: St. John's June 2025 Treasurer's Financial Report

Total Operating Income is (\$14k) below budget for the month of June and (\$82k) below budget YTD.

- Offering:
 - o June offering was (\$9k) below budget.
 - o YTD offering is (\$65k) below budget.
 - o 2025 YTD offering actuals through June are about (\$24k) below 2024 offering through June.
- Other Income
 - o YTD combined "Other Income" and "other Gifts" are \$17k higher than budget.
 - o Very few Designated and Foundation Funds have been released so for this year, these items are (\$34k) below budget.

Total Operating Expense is (\$15k) below budget for the month of June, and (\$67k) below budget YTD.

- Personnel is (\$37k) below budget YTD through June. 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 are close to budget through six months into the year.
- We are still waiting for the savings from the Solar Panels to show up on our utility bills.

Net Income/(loss)

- The Net Income YTD through June is (\$14K) below budget.

There is slight concern about the trend in offering, as 2025 giving is a bit less than 2024 though the first half of the year. (about 5% lower than 2024)