Minutes
Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
October 27th, 2026
[[Zoom Meeting]]

Members: Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, President Paul Beck, President Elect Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Treasurer Judd Lohmann, Secretary Steve Reece; Council Members Cheryl Buck, Beth Cox, Jill Enestvedt, Olaf Hall-Holt, Brian Evenson, Dan Hanson, Andrea Hoff, Susan Lohmann, and Ruthie Neuger.

Present: Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, President Elect Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Treasurer Judd Lohmann, Secretary Steve Reece; Council Members Beth Cox, Jill Enestvedt, Olaf Hall-Holt, Dan Hanson, Andrea Hoff, and Ruthie Neuger.

Absent: President Paul Beck; Council Members Cheryl Buck, Brian Evenson, and Susan Lohmann.

President Elect Pam Groves-Gaggioli called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The meeting was held via Zoom owing to the paucity of agenda items and since several Council members were out of town.

1. Devotions based on Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination*

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

2. Approval of September Minutes

Andrea Hoff made a motion, seconded by Jill Enestvedt, for approval of the minutes of the September Council Meeting. Motion carried.

3. Financial Report

See addendum #1 (below) for Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Judd Lohmann encouraged Board chairs to continue working on their budgets and have them finished by their November 10th Board meetings.

4. Action Items

Beth Cox and Ruthie Neuger agreed to serve as rotating members of the Budget Committee. Council enthusiastically approved their appointments.

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 responses can be communicated to Olaf.

9. New Business

10. Future Dates

Board Meetings on November 10th, 7 pm

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

President Elect Pam Groves-Gaggioli adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Steve Reece

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. 20th 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 24th, our 3rd graders had their Bible Retreat, and 11 Confirmands gathered for the Confirmation Breakfast in preparation for Affirmation of Baptism on October 25th.

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.