

Minutes
Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
September 22nd, 2026

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

Absent: Pastor Pam Fickenschier (on sabbatical), Council Members Beth Cox and Andrea Hoff.

President Paul Beck called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Pastor Jonathan Davis led a discussion of pages 88-99 on the prophetic ministry of Jesus.

2. Approval of July Minutes

Ruthie Neuger made a motion, seconded by Pam Groves-Gaggioli, for approval of the minutes of the August Council Meeting. Motion carried.

3. Financial Report

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

4. Action Items

Cheryl Buck made a motion, seconded by Olaf Hall-Holt, to approve a \$2,000 grant proposal submitted by Michelle Prevost on behalf of St. John's WELCA to support Lutheran World Relief (LWR) & Global Health Ministries (GHM) in 2027. The request has already been approved by the Foundation board. Motion carried.

5. Discussion Items

Cheryl Buck, on behalf of the Evangelism and Communication Board, informed Council of the Board's efforts to promote St. John's AV outreach ministry through the use of business cards with QR codes that would connect the user to archived sermons and other church activities.

6. Pastors' Report

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

7. Board Updates

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

Pam Groves-Gaggioli, on behalf of WELCA, reminded the Council about the meatball luncheon on September 27th to raise funds to send our youth to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer. Other possible sources of funds for this event were considered.

8. Old Business

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.

9. New Business

Dan Hanson reported that a deciduous hedge would be planted along 3rd Street to help block the headlights from cars in the parking lot from becoming a nuisance to our neighbors.

10. Future Dates

Board Meetings on October 13th, 7 pm

Council Meeting on October 27th, 7 pm

President Paul Beck adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Steve Reece

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

Total Operating Income is on budget for the month of August, and (\$102k) below budget YTD through August.

- Offering:
 - o August offering was \$7k above budget.
 - o August YTD offering is (\$45k) below budget.
 - o 2026 August YTD offering is about 31k above 2025 YTD offering through August.
- Other Income
 - o August YTD combined "Other Income" and "Other Gifts" is \$4k above budget.
 - o August YTD Designated and Foundation Funds are (\$61k) below budget.

Total Operating Expense is (\$3k) below budget for August, and (\$47k) below budget YTD through August.

- Personnel is on budget for August and \$5k above budget YTD.
- No Boards are above budget YTD.
 - o YTD Property and Grounds is (\$13k) below budget
 - o YTD Benevolence is (\$7k) below budget
 - o YTD Worship, Music and Arts is (\$7k) below budget

Net Income/(loss)

- Net Income for August is \$3k above budget, and (\$55k) below budget YTD.

I don't have any particular concerns at this time.

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

Official acts: Funeral for John Walters, September 18

Staff: Staff is doing well and the launch of the program year has gone well.

CYF: We have 52 youth registered for Confirmation and High School Youth Group
We have around 35 children registered for Wednesday programming and Sunday School.
We had a successful Welcome Fest on September 20th!

Around the church: Announcements at Boards and Worship around the upcoming parking lot improvements have been helpful and well received.