

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation Council
Meeting Notes v2.0 Approved by Council
August 12, 2025, 6:00 PM

A.

Members present: Ken Holmes, Lora Houska, Roy Lawrenz, Earl Macha, Erika Schindel, Greg Stabbe, Pastor Beth and Karen Zahn.

Member with excused absence: Lowell Suring.

Agenda items:

A. Karen Zahn convened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

B. Opening devotions/prayer.

1. Devotions and prayer were led by Karen: Christ In Our Home and Ecclesiastes.

C. Agenda review and repair.

1. Review of minutes from July. Motion to approve by Greg, seconded by Earl, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the parade was made by Greg, seconded by Erika, motion carried.

D. Approval of the financial reports (until audited).

1. General fund.

i. \$4,000 was moved from Savings to General Fund for July Expenses. Motion approved by Roy, seconded by Erika, motion carried.

2. Improvement fund.

3. Memorial fund.

4. Blessing Basket fund.

E. Monthly benevolence donations

1. There is a heartfelt letter of gratitude that will be in the next Spirit newsletter regarding this. There were also thank you cards received from Chase and Harold for gifts they received from Our Redeemer's

F. Pastor's report – Pastor Beth Macha.

1. A written report was provided.

2. Pastor Beth proposed change to the Incident/Accident Report and Policy. Roy motioned to approve the changes to the Incident/Accident Report and Policy, Erika seconded, motion carried.

G. President's report – Karen Zahn

1. We have a need for a new cleaning person by deer season.

2. Our office secretary Judy will be on vacation October 14 to 30 and has a planned surgery on November 4. We will need to plan for her absence.
- H. Reports of Committees that have recently met and provided written reports.
1. Building Maintenance and Improvement (BMI)/HVAC Sub-committee.
 - a. Earl explained we are still having sand in the water system. They are planning on replacing the third filter since we increased the depth of the well pump.
 - b. Discussion was had regarding the siding and roofing based on the outcome of the Congregational Meeting.
 - c. Earl provided information regarding the current insurance company. He suggested we remain with them. Roy provided data supporting the suggestion. They are a company that only insures churches. Motion to keep the current insurance company made by Roy, Seconded by Greg, motion carried.
 2. Landscape
 - a. Projects included moving the tree from the flagpole area. A big thank you to Mark and his employees for removing the stones around the flagpole garden. These were a safety concern over being a tripping hazard. They were replaced with brick. This is a test garden to see how it works. If is successful and deemed worth the effort, other gardens will be considered for the change.
 3. Men's Group
 - i. There were 26 members at the Men's Club meeting/party at the Lake. The Men's Club is planning a pancake breakfast sometime this fall.
 4. Women of the Church
 - i. A motion was made by Lora and Second by Earl to allow the StrongBones program to meet at the church starting this October.
 5. Worship and Music
 - i. Positive feedback regarding the congregation submitting their favorite songs. This continues until September 7th.
- I. Old Business
1. Opening and Closing Church guidelines discussions were tabled until next month.
 2. Audit of Financial Secretary files.
 - i. Payments for audits were reviewed. Lora asked to confirm that last year's payment was made. If not, the council approved adding payment to this payment for the auditor.

3. Financial Secretary

- i. Discussion was held on the Financial Secretary Position replacement including training, wages, responsibilities, and possible prospects for the council to contact. Additional discussion was held regarding expansion of counting teams so the Financial Secretary would not need to be there every single Sunday.
4. Security for the church was reviewed. Ken will be leading the project. He will set a meeting time in the next few weeks.
6. Job Description for the cleaning position to be reviewed before hiring a new custodian.
7. Abelskiver proceeds will be used for external projects approved by the council. There is roughly \$3,000 to distribute. Suggestions were given by parishioners. The three projects funded this year are \$1,000 for the Veteran's Park in Suring (this amount will be matched by a grant), \$1,000 to the Gillett Food Pantry, and \$1,000 to the Suring Market Agriculture Center. Ken will meet with Mary Smith to discuss which project SMAC will use this for.

J. New Business

1. The Suring Labor Day parade preparation. Erika demonstrated how the t-shirts are filled with a note about service times. We will be throwing the t-shirts from the float, the leftover pens, notepads and bouncy balls. Ken will start reconstruction of the float soon. We are in need of helpers to toss stuff for the parade on Labor Day.

K. Meeting adjourned by Greg and Roy seconded, motion carried.

President Karen Zahn declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The meeting ended with recital of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Holmes