

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation Council
Meeting Notes – Final

15 January 2026

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

Agenda items:

- A. Karen Zahn convened the meeting at 6:07 pm.
- B. Opening devotions/prayer.
 - 1. Devotions and prayer were led by Lowell Suring on 1st Corinthians 12:25-30; Individuals' contributions to ministry.
 - 2. February devotions/prayer will be led by Ken Holmes.
- C. Review of monthly Council calendar.
 - 1. Annual meeting – 1 February 2026
- D. Agenda review and repair. Items added to the agenda were presentation by the County Sheriff, bids requested for financial services, list of emergency contacts, and the Danish (Abelskiver) Festival. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to accept the agenda, as amended. Earl Macha seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- E. Review, (revise), and accept meeting notes from the Council meeting on 10 December 2025.
 - 1. A motion was made by Roy Lawrenz and seconded by Ken Holmes to accept the notes from the Council meeting on 10 December 2025. The motion was passed unanimously.
- F. Approval of the financial reports (until audited).
 - 1. General fund.
 - 2. Improvement fund (in annual report).
 - 3. Memorial fund.
 - 4. Blessing Basket fund.
 - 5. A motion was made by Erika Schindel and seconded by Greg Stabbe to accept the financial reports, until audited, of the General, Memorial, and Blessing Basket funds, as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.
- G. Monthly benevolence donations.
 - 1. ELCA \$2,400
 - 2. Christmas donations \$1,078
 - 3. Lutheran Social Services \$600
 - 4. Christmas family \$370

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| 5. Crossways Camp | \$100 |
| 6. Nurses Nook | \$100 |

H. Pastor's report – Pastor Beth Macha.

1. A written report was provided.
2. Pastor Macha noted a potential problem with pick-up and distribution of Postal mail from the Congregation's mail box. A policy will be drafted by Karen Zahn indicating that mail will be only picked up by the Office Secretary or the Pastor (or designated substitute in their absence). The mail will be deposited in the office and be dispersed to recipients by the Office Secretary. Mail will be opened only by the recipient. The draft policy will be discussed by the Council at the February 2026 meeting.
3. Dennis and Kathryn Race joined the Congregation on 7 December 2025.

I. Reports of Committees That Have Met Recently.

1. Blessing Basket.
 - i. The financial report was received and accepted.
2. Building Maintenance and Improvement (BMI)/HVAC Sub-committee.
 - i. A written report was received.
 - ii. Attention has to be given to cleaning the kitchen, especially following fellowship after the Sunday worship services.
3. Memorial
 - i. The financial report was received and accepted.
4. Men's Group.
 - i. Twenty people have signed up for the annual Valentine's Day outing at Romy's Holiday Inn on 17 February 2026.
 - ii. The Men's Group will sponsor a pancake breakfast following the worship service on 18 January to celebrate Pastor Fred Mai's and Corinne Roscoe's birthdays.
5. Women of Our Redeemer's.
 - i. A written report was received.
 - ii. Blanche Brenwall will be serving as the group's treasurer.
 - iii. The Women's group made a donation to the generator fund.
6. Worship and Music
 - i. A record of communion participation has been implemented for planning set-ups.

J. Old Business.

1. Job descriptions.

- i. The draft of the job description for the Financial Secretary has been reviewed and approved by the current Financial Secretary.
- ii. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to approve the draft job description for the Financial Secretary. The motion was seconded by Earl Macha and was passed unanimously.
- iii. The draft of the job description for the Treasurer will need to be reviewed by the current Treasurer.

2. Nomination Committee.

- i. The Committee is contacting potential candidates for vacant positions on the Congregation Council for the term beginning in February 2026.
- ii. One person has accepted a nomination to run for a vacant position on the Congregation Council.

K. New Business

1. Agenda for the Annual Meeting.

- i. Discussion of the Danish (Abelskiver) Festival will be included on the agenda.

L. Items added to the agenda

1. County Sheriff's presentation.

- i. A meeting to conduct a presentation and work session on safety issues and solutions for the Congregation has not yet been scheduled by the Sheriff's office.

2. Bids for financial services.

- i. We have not requested bids for financial services yet. In consultation with a CPA, they suggested that we should expect to pay at least \$30/hour for these services.

3. Emergency contacts.

- i. The list needs to be located in a semi-secure holder that is accessible.
- ii. Lora Houska made a motion that was seconded by Earl Macha to place the list of emergency contacts for members of the Congregation in a sealed box that can be affixed to the wall in the Narthex. When needed, the seal can be broken to access the list and then resealed. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Danish (Abelskiver) Festival

- Council members voted by unanimous ballot, moved by Erika Schindel, seconded by Lora Houska. The unanimous ballot passed with the following results:
 - President – Ken Holmes.
 - Vice-president – Roy Lawrenz.
 - Secretary – Lowell Suring.
- L. Meeting dates and times.
 1. Meetings will be scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.
 2. The first meeting will be on 17 February 2026 at 6:00 PM.
- M. A discussion was held concerning scheduling the yearly Council Retreat. The Retreat will be held on Saturday, 21 February at the church,
- N. Erika Schindel made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Lora Houska seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lowell Suring
Council Secretary