

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Notes
Sunday, January 25, 2026 - Final

1. **Meeting called to order** at 10:15 am by Council President, Karen Zahn; 29 voting members were present, constituting a quorum.
2. **Opening prayer** was led by Pastor Beth Macha on being thankful for our gifts and remembering we are children of God.
3. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Karen Zahn noted that the discussion item under 9.b BMI should be deleted, the discussion item under 9.f Evangelism/Stewardship should be deleted, the discussion item under 9.m Worship should be deleted, and the discussion item under 10.a Danish Festival/Abelskiver should be moved to New Business
 - b. A motion was made by Roy Lawrenz and seconded by Kathy Lawrenz to approve to annual meeting agenda with the indicated revisions; the motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes** from the 3rd Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, 19 October 2025.
 - a. A motion was made by Earl Macha and seconded by Lora Houska to accept minutes as presented; the motion was passed unanimously
5. **Reading of the Mission Statements**; Karen Zahn read our mission statements:
 - a. Faith statement: "Living in God's grace, we walk by faith and not by sight."
 - b. Business statement: "Our mission is to support one another to be faithful in worship, witness, and outreach; committing ourselves to proclaim the Gospel."
6. **Financial Reports**
 - a. Year-end Reports
 - i. General fund
 - ii. Improvement fund
 - iii. Memorial fund
 - iv. Blessing Basket fund
 - v. Women's Group
 - vi. Education Committee – Noisy Offering
 - b. Audit Committee Report
 - i. Karen Hemken provided a verbal report that all financial reports were in order.
 - c. **2025 year-end reports** printed in the Annual Report (approval by hand vote)

- i. Jerry Frey made a motion to accept the 2025 year-end reports as printed and audited; the motion was seconded by Cheryl Kruschke; the motion carried (29 yes, 0 no)
 - d. **Proposed Congregational Budget for 2026** (approval by ballot vote)
 - i. All committees submitted budget proposals.
 - ii. A budget hearing was held on 4 January, prior to the annual meeting, to answer specific questions from the Congregation.
 - iii. The budget is a deficit budget (it is an aspirational planning document).
 - iv. The budget includes several set-aside funds for potentially large maintenance expenses.
 - v. A question was asked concerning how we met the deficit budget in 2025. When necessary to pay our expenses, funds were taken out of the money market account. All expenses were met.
 - vi. A ballot vote was called by president, Karen Zahn; the 2026 budget was approved by ballot: 29 yes votes, 0 no votes.

7. Pastor's Report

- a. See the written report in the annual report.

8. President's Report

- a. See the written report in the annual report.
- b. An apprentice is needed to work with the treasurer.

9. Committee Reports – written reports for all committees were included in the annual report.

- a. Blessing Basket
 - i. A process is being developed that will facilitate making donations in someone's honor or in their memory (similar to the process Home Respite used).
- b. Building, Maintenance, Improvement/ HVAC Subcommittee
- c. Constitution & Policy
- d. Decorating
- e. Education
- f. Evangelism & Stewardship
- g. Landscape
- h. Long Range
- i. Memorial
- j. Men's Group
- k. Women of Our Redeemer's
- l. Worship & Music

10. Old Business

- a. None

11. New Business

a. Election of Council Members

- i. The Nomination Committee brought forward four members to be nominated for a second term on the Congregation Council: Ken Holmes, Lora Houska, Lowell Suring, and Erika Schindel. The Committee also brought forward two members to be nominated for their first term on the Congregation Council: Allyn Christensen and Moira Wirtz.
- ii. Byron Kruschke made a motion to close nominations and approve the ballot; the motion was seconded by Earl Macha.
- iii. All nominees were elected by ballot, 29 yes votes, 0 no.

b. Danish Festival/Abelskiver

- i. The Congregation Council recommended that the Congregation hold the Danish Festival/Abelskiver in April 2026 and made a motion to do so. The motion was seconded by BJ Douglass.
- ii. During discussion it was noted that a “yes” vote would mean that an organizing committee would be needed to facilitate the undertaking (a manual prepared by last year’s committee is available to guide the effort) and volunteers will be needed for all the tasks involved.
- iii. A vote by ballot resulted in 22 yes, 6 no, and 1 abstention.

c. Conference Delegates

- i. Shawano Conference
 - 1. There were not any volunteers at this time.
- ii. Synod Assembly (4-6 June) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
 - 1. Karen Zahn and Carol Suring volunteered to represent Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Congregation.

d. World Day of Prayer

- i. Scheduled for 6 March 2026 with the theme “I Will Give You Rest: Come”.
- ii. St. Anthony’s Catholic Church will be coordinating the event; it will be held at St Patrick’s Catholic Church in Stiles, Wisconsin.

12. Additions to Agenda

- a. None

13. Adjourn

- a. Greg Staabe made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Roy Lawrenz; the motion carried.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am with recital of the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by:
Lowell Suring
Council Secretary