

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation Council
Meeting Notes – Final

16 June 2026

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

Members absent: Allyn Christensen and Moira Wirtz.

Guests: Earl Macha, Nancy Macha, and Karen Zahn.

Agenda items:

A. President Ken Holmes convened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

B. Opening devotions/prayer.

1. Devotions and prayer were led by Ken Holmes on 2nd Thessalonians 3, verses 1-5; The Apostle Paul prayed for the rapid spread of the gospel. He assures us of God's faithfulness and concludes that the Lord directs our hearts into His love and Christ's steadfastness.

2. June devotions/prayer will be led by Allyn Christensen.

C. Review of monthly Council calendar.

1. The agenda for the July quarterly meeting was discussed under New Business.

D. Agenda review and repair.

1. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to accept the agenda, as amended. Lora Houska seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

E. Review, (revise), and accept meeting notes from a previous meeting (19 May 2026).

1. A motion was made by Erika Schindel and seconded by Roy Lawrenz to accept the notes from the Council meeting on 19 May 2026. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

1. General fund.

2. Improvement fund (reviewed quarterly).

3. Memorial fund.

4. Blessing Basket fund.

5. A motion was made by Roy Lawrenz 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. Crossways Camp \$100

2. Nurses Nook \$100

H. President's report.

1. Ken Holmes verbal report.

i. The President updated us on his individual meetings with several members of the Congregation.

I. Pastor's report – Pastor Beth Macha.

1. A written report was provided.
 - i. We will be having a special worship service on 5 July in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. Pastor Macha recommended that we also have a special observance of this anniversary during the refreshment hour after the worship service.

J. Reports of Committees That Have Met Recently.

1. Blessing Basket.
 - i. The financial report for the month was received.
2. Building and Improvement/HVAC Sub-committee.
 - i. A written report for the month was received.
 - ii. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources personnel reviewed our well and water systems.
3. Education.
 - i. A written report was received.
 - ii. The Vacation Bible School theme for this year will be *Taking Care of God's Creation*.
4. Landscape
 - i. The Committee needs a chair; Ken Holmes will continue to make some contacts with prospective candidates for the position.
 - ii. Flowers and herbs were planted in the raised beds.
 - iii. The bricks in the Prayer Garden need maintenance. A contractor will be contacted and a bid requested for the work.
5. Memorial
 - i. The financial report for the month was received.
 - ii. The Committee will meet to explore funding options for the electronic doors.
6. Men's Group
 - i. The Men's Group is planning summer activities for the Congregation (e.g., BBQ at the lake, pancake breakfast, a night at the car races, attend baseball game).
 - ii. The Men's Group presented two scholarships to local college students.
7. Women of Our Redeemer's.
 - i. A written report was received.

K. Old Business.

1. Danish (Abelskiver) Festival Funds Dispersal.
 - i. Discussion centered on providing funding for the Congregation and/or the community. A straw poll was conducted on providing funds to the Congregation and the community OR just to the community. An informal preference for the Congregation and the community was indicated.
 - ii. This will be presented to the Congregation at the next Quarterly Meeting.
 - iii. A 50/50 split between the Congregation and the community will be suggested.
 - iv. Up to three items will be identified for spending each dispersal, for example:

Congregation

Prayer Garden maintenance
New tablet for streaming
Generator
Electronic doors

Community

Suring Future Farmers of America
Veterans' Memorial Park
Suring Market Agricultural Center
Food bank
Nurses' Nook
Handicap resources

2. Day-to-Day Operations Database

- i. A form has been developed; each function will have a folder in a sealed envelope.
- ii. A form has been updated for the procedure for check out items for personal use.
- iii. Guidelines for use of the Congregation's property have been developed

L. New Business

1. Review of the Improvement Fund.

- i. After a point-by-point review of the fund, it was decided that focus meetings are needed to fully review and understand all the financial items in the fund.

2. Inheritance.

- i. Mike Diemer is administering the associated IRA and will let us know when final determinations are made.

3. Quarterly Meetings.

- i. Do we need to continue to have quarterly meetings of the Congregation?
- ii. This will be included on the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting.

4. 2026 Synod Assembly

- i. Carol Suring, delegate, provided a written synopsis of the meeting,
- ii. Karen Zahn, delegate, emphasized that the Congregation needs to have delegates attend every year and that financial support needs to be specified in the annual budget.

5. Church Road Signs.

- i. The replacements for three large signs are in the garage and will be installed soon. When they are installed, the vegetation at each site will be cleared out.
- ii. The small directional signs for each Congregation are put up by Oconto County. They are replacing the weathered wooden signs with metal signs. Ken Holmes will request the County to replace our signs with the new metal signs.

6. Maple Valley Township.

- i. The Township is in the process of planning for a renovation and remodeling of the current Town Hall. When reconstruction is underway they will need an alternate place to meet and may request to use the Congregation's facilities.

7. Financial Records Safe

- i. A motion was made by Roy Lawrenz and seconded by Greg Stabbe to install the records safe in the finance room. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Date and Agenda for the 2nd Quarterly Meeting.

- i. The meeting will be held following the worship service on 19 July 2026.
- ii. The agenda will include:
 - Dispersal of the Danish (Abelskiver) Festival Funds
 - Update on the generator
 - Changing the schedule of meetings of the Congregation
 - Electronic entrance doors
 - Safe for financial records

9. Office Secretary Position (from Executive Committee meeting).

- i. The Council moved into an executive session at 8:09 PM.
- ii. The Council retired from the executive session at 8:27 PM.
- iii. The Council will advertise this position as a combined position of Office Secretary and Congregation Treasurer combining the salaries of the two positions.
- iv. Pastor Macha will prepare a combined position description for the new position.

M. Monthly opening devotions/prayer for Council meetings.

- 1. A sign-up sheet has been created so that Council members can select the month(s) they will provide opening devotions/prayer during 2026.

N. The next meeting will be held on 21 July at 6:00 pm.

O. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Lora Houska.

P. The meeting then ended at 8:45 pm with recital of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lowell Suring
Council Secretary