Our Redeemer's Lutheran Congregation Council
Meeting Notes – v1.0

18 August 2026

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

Members absent: Allyn Christensen, Moira Wirtz.

Guest: Matty Holmes

Agenda items:

A. President Ken Holmes convened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

B. Opening devotions/prayer.
   1. Opening prayer was led by Greg Stabbe for guidance to do God's will.
   2. September devotions/prayer will be led by Ken Holmes.

C. Review of monthly Council calendar.
   1. The Building, Maintenance, and Improvement Committee is conducting a review of insurance needs for the church and will report their findings to Council.
   2. The Office Secretary will be requested to print out the form to be used for Time and Talent volunteers. The form will be reviewed by Council during the September meeting.

D. Agenda review and repair.
   1. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to accept the agenda, as printed. Erika Schindel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

E. Review, (revise), and accept meeting notes from a previous meeting (21 July 2026).
   1. A motion was made by Erika Schindel and seconded by Lora Houska to accept the notes from the Council meeting on 21 July 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. The current reports for the General, Memorial, and Blessing Basket funds were presented. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to accept these reports, pending an audit. Greg Stabbe seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

G. Monthly benevolence donations.
   1. Crossways Camp $100
   2. Nurses Nook $100
   3. Lutheran Social Services $600

H. President's report.
   1. Ken Holmes verbal report.
      i. The President thanked Nancy Macha, and Erika Schindel for their time and effort spent visiting the financial institutions with him where the Congregation has accounts.

I. Pastor's report – Pastor Beth Macha.
   1. A written report was provided.

J. Reports of Committees That Met During the Previous Month.

1. Blessing Basket.
   i. A financial report was provided.
2. Building, Maintenance, and Improvement/HVAC Sub-committee.
   i. All bids have been received for installation of the automatic/handicap doors. The Council is waiting for a recommendation from the Committee on how the Congregation should proceed.
3. Constitution and Policy.
   i. In lieu of the Committee meeting, Erika Schindel made a motion to have biannual meetings of the Congregation instead of quarterly meetings. The motion was seconded by Roy Lawrenz. The motion passed unanimously. The Council will request the Constitution and Policy Committee to revise BYLAW C10.01.01.a CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS to reflect this change and to implement this change.
4. Education.
   i. Council members discussed that Vacation Bible School went well and that the program developed locally by the Committee and other participants was very well done.
5. Evangelism/Stewardship.
   i. The float to be entered into the Suring Labor Day Parade will echo the theme of Vacation Bible School with additional reference to the Pet Blessing Service.
6. Memorial.
   i. A financial report was received. The Committee also reviewed potential sources within the memorial funds for partial funding of the automatic/handicap doors.
7. Women of Our Redeemer's.
   i. School supplies, winter jackets, and boots will be collected for the Suring School. Personal Care Kits will be assembled for distribution through ELCA.

K. Old Business.
1. Secretary/Treasurer Position Recruitment.
   i. The position announcement was posted on Facebook, without any responses.
   ii. Ken Holmes will contact the Town Boards of the surrounding townships to see if they have potential recruits for the position.
   iii. The position announcement will be posted in area newspapers and flyers.
   iv. If we do not receive responses from those efforts, we may need to separate the duties in the single position as advertised.
2. Continued Review of the Improvement Fund
   ii. Financial institutions where the Congregation has accounts were visited and the signers on the accounts were revised to the same people on all accounts.
   iii. Work needs to continue to determine the purpose of each account and if they contain dedicated funds.
   iv. Certificates of Deposit will be monitored for their due dates. We will consolidate the location of each account to 1 or 2 financial institutions with the highest interest rates,
3. Status of the IRA Inheritance.
   i. The process for the transfer of the IRA to the Congregation is proceeding with our application for membership in Osais, the financial institution managing the IRA.
   ii. Responsible individuals that represent the Congregation need to be identified and authorized to transfer the funds to the Congregation's financial institution.

a) Lora Houska made a motion authorizing Ken Holmes, Roy Lawrenz, and Lowell Suring, as members of the Executive Committee, and Nancy Macha, as Treasurer, to accept the IRA funds and transfer them to the N.E.W. Credit Union. The motion was seconded by Erika Schendel and passed unanimously.

b) The transfered proceeds will be put into the General Funs of the Congregation until a decision is made regarding the distribution of the funds.

L. New Business.

1. Request for use of the Church facilities.
   i. Lora Houska presented a request to use the Congregation's facilities for the Strong Bones Exercise class beginning on 26 September 2026.
   ii. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to grant the request to use the Congregation's facilities for the Strong Bones Exercise class beginning on 26 September 2026. The motion was seconded by Ken Holmes. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Fund Raisers
   i. A need was expressed for the Congregation to have a process in place to guide implementation of fund raisers.
   ii. This will be discussed at the September Council meeting.
3. Cards For Kids Program.
   i. Currently the Congregation has multiple programs that send greeting cards to children and other activities (e.g., secret pals) to keep them associated with the Congregation.
   ii. Currently there is not coordination across these programs.
   iii. Lora Houska made a motion to direct Erika Schindel to supervise these programs and to develop a process for coordinating the programs. The motion was seconded by Roy Lawrenz. The motion was passed unanimously.

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 15 September 2026 at 6:00 pm.

O. Greg Stabbe made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Roy Lawrenz.

P. The meeting then ended at 8:14 pm with recital of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Lowell Suring
Council Secretary