

First Lutheran Congregational Meeting Minutes

Date: January 25, 2026, at 9:30am

Members Present: President Brenda Allan, Vice President Kenton Holle, Secretary Veronica Barnick, Travis Schmidt, Tim Faller, Greg Grube, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

Members Absent: Desiree Reile, Kristy Mindt

Additional Present: Jackie Klein, Kevin Fishbeck (Parliamentarian)

Meeting Notes:

- Members Present: 62
- Called to order by Brenda Allan.
- Opening Prayer: Pastor Phil Leer

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Ralph Feland to approve the agenda. Jeanne House seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from Jan. 26th, 2025, annual meeting: Motion to Approve was made by Dave MacIver, Seconded by Gary Flaa. Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes from Special Congregational Meeting on July 13, 2025: Motion to Approve was made by Gary Flaa. Seconded by Kenton Holle. None opposed. Motion passed.

Acknowledgement of Reports: (No Discussion unless otherwise noted)

- Pastor Phil
- Council President Brenda Allan
- Evangelism and Outreach Team
- Property and Management Team
- Stewardship Team
- Worship Team
- Youth and Parish Education Team
- Call Committee Report
- MSLCC Annual Report
- First Lutheran Mission Endowment Committee Annual Report
- Western North Dakota Synod
- Congregational Statistics
- Congregational Financial Records

Congregational Financial Records

- Presented as written, submitted by Curtis Peterson

Tim Faller made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Greg Grube seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

- Retaining Walls/Parking Lot – discussion was held. The question was asked by Ralph Feland about what changed with the large estimates presented to the congregation last year at the annual meeting. Also, the question was asked why we needed a company to look at it. He explained that he was here when they went up. Wayne Friesz explained that we needed an expert to tell us what shape the retaining wall was in because no one here at the church knows enough about it. The question was also asked if we have had the city come look at it. The city has only looked at the west sidewalk.
- Brenda Allan mentioned that the church is in Phase 1 of city construction of the streets surrounding the church for 2027. This could also change how we proceed with the retaining walls/parking lot. Feb 24th will be the open house presenting the plans the city has for the area. Everyone is invited. Kenton also mentioned that this will mean that the church would be responsible for the cost of specials assessments. The church is not exempt from special assessments.
- Ralph Feland asked about the security at our church. He asked if the doors were locked after church services had begun. It was explained that right now the doors are not locked during services. They were locked during services for a while after we had the incident with the unexpected visitor.

New Business:

- Fellowship Hall Chairs – Linda Anseth came forward and said that if the church needs new chairs, then we should get them. If we need a fundraiser, have a fundraiser. The council will proceed with the process.
- Endowment Fund update – no update as this time
- Elections
 - Synod Assembly Delegates for May 29-May 31, 2026 in Watford City, ND (5 needed)
 - Britany Barden
 - Jeanne House
 - Lori Meyers
 - Corby Rachel
 - Linda Anseth
 - Camp of the Cross Delegates Sunday, February 22, 2026, 2pm CT at Camp of the Cross Fellowship Center (3 Needed)
 - Jennifer Thorson
 - Larry Thorson
 - Jeff Bradford
 - New Church Council Nominees
 - Sue Ziemann – 1-year term
 - Lori Meyers – 3-year term. Nominated by Corby Rachel and Linda Anseth

- Cara Mitzel– 3-year term. Nominated by Kathy Brandvold and Cathy Long
- Veronica Barnick - 3-year term. Nominated by Tim Faller and Brenda Allan

A motion was made by Kenton Holle to approve Sue Ziemann for the 1 -year term as the nominee for council. Corby Rachel seconded. None opposed. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Lois Mongeon to approve Lori Meyers, Cara Mitzel, and Veronica Barnick as nominees for council. Seconded by Kathy Brandvold. None opposed. Motion carries.

- First Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Team (1-5-yr term)
 - - 5-year term – There are no nominees
- MSLCC Annual Meeting Delegates Monday September 28, 2026, 7pm (5 needed)
 - Lois Mongeon
 - Jeanne House
 - Corby Rachel
 - Brenda Allan
 - Kenton Holle
- Council Nominating Team for 2026 council
 - (Needed)
 - (Needed)
 - (Needed)

- **Election of the new Council Members:**
 - Cara Mitzel
 - Lori Meyers
 - Veronica Barnick-
 - Sue Ziemann – 1 year

Dave MacIver made a motion to elect all nominees. Britany Barden seconded the motion. None opposed. The motion passed.

2026 Budget Discussion – 2026 budget was presented as printed in the booklet by Curtis Peterson. Curtis was not present today and unavailable for questions today. Anyone can reach out to Curtis with their questions if they would like to do so.

- Lori Meyers came forward with concerns about reducing the budget for youth. We need to support the youth more.
- Tyler Lundstrom came forward with concerns about reducing the budget for youth as well.
- Jamie Doll came forward and read a letter from one youth with the Mission trip group. The question was asked what we can do to keep our youth here, especially after they have gone through confirmation. Also, she stated how important that keeping our current youth engaged and involved is. Annabell Hanson spoke as well on the same topic.
- Kyra Stern spoke about the importance of youth programs in our church. She stated she is thinking about leaving this church because there is not enough for youth.
- Linda Anseth came forward and asked if we could have a more detailed budget as in previous years. We will let Curtis know. The questions about the youth budget will also be directed to Curtis.

Tim Faller motioned to approve the 2026 budget; Charlie Kraemer seconded. Three opposed. The motion passed. The budget was approved.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Lois Mongeon. Seconded by Naida Feland . None opposed. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Adam Barden