

Church Council Minutes
April 14, 2026

We Gather as God's People

- **Lighting of the Candle** > 6pm
- **Sharing Highs and Lows**
- Devotional: Andrew Lockhard

Aligning with our purpose

Our Vision: *Following Jesus – Loving All*

Our Mission: *Jesus calls us to be a community, embrace
nourishing mind, body, and spirit.*

Our 2024-2025 Commissions:

Reverent Worship *Nurture a culture of expectation, experience,
experimentation, and excellence.*

Spiritual Growth *Open opportunities for all ages, abilities, and affirmations to
expand their understanding and faith.*

Community *Expand opportunities for authentic relationships in and
outside the congregation through activities and experiences
of fellowship and service.*

Welcome *Cultivate a culture of radical hospitality and affirmation.
Break down hurdles to belonging.*

Celebration *Recognize the gifts and milestones of life gathered by God
into this fellowship*

We Gather Needful Information

Roll Call All Present, except for Krista & Nancy

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

Andrew made the motion to approve minutes from last meeting. George seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Action Items from Director**
- **Andrew Lockhart >**
 - **Missions >**
- Men's Club shifting from David's House due to poor conditions

- Reports of roach droppings and low volunteer turnout.
- Gulf Breeze mission preferred with high appreciation
 - Possible reduction to twice monthly meal deliveries.
- Communication gaps affect volunteer coordination
 - Meetings planned to improve scheduling and communication.

- **Parish Life>**

Nothing to report

- **Faith Formation >**

Refer to Krista's report

- **Nancy Carpenter > not available**

- **Worship team >**

- Nothing to report

- **Archives>**

- Nothing to report

- **Welcoming Team> (short term) >**

- Nothing to report

- **George Vasquez >**

- **Property**

Jim >

- Working on getting AC fixed > need monetary help

Roof conts to leak in chapel

- HVAC Replacement Urgency: \$100,000+ needed to replace failing 50-year-old system; install time 3–6 weeks.

- Current evaporator coil from 1970s risks leaks with new high-pressure systems.

- Prior bid around \$77,000 plus \$15,000–\$20,000 for coil replacement.

- New system more energy efficient; ductwork replacement not planned.
- Permits, engineering, and equipment procurement required.
- Electrical upgrades may add \$125,000 due to outdated system and code violations.
- Funding strategies
 - Building fund holds ~\$154,000; endowment fund a last resort. \$100,000 pledged in matching funds.
 - HVAC replacement prioritized; other projects delayed.
- **Stewardship>**
 - Waiting on meeting > to determine direction where to go
 - Talk to congregation regarding donations
- **Senior Pastor's Report > see attached**
- **Youth, Family & Communications Coordinator's Report> see attached**
- **Presidents Report>**
 - Doryn Glenn to have class on Cyber Security possibly April 26, 2026 after church
 - Streaming attracts nearly 700 followers: live viewership
 - Root beer float celebration planned after Sunday service on 4/19/26
 - Pace Program > see attached
 - May 3rd congregational meeting and picnic scheduled > Men's Club to provide food.

- Council communications to be summarized in newsletter
 - Brief updates to increase transparency.
 - Billing reminders for altar flowers proposed
 - Office capacity limits full implementation; volunteer support needed.
- **Vice President's Report > nothing to report**
- **Financial Officer's Report >**
- Financial Strain: Weekly donations average \$6,700; costs must be managed amid debts.
- Reserves and pledges total ~\$154,000 with \$100,000 donor pledge
 - About \$57,000 available after expenditures.
 - Building funds to be used strictly for facility expenses.
- Debts include ~\$50,000 IRS penalties and credit card balances
 - Efforts to obtain paperwork and negotiate payment plans ongoing.
 - Endowment fund considered for tax and credit card payments.
- Weekly giving declined, complicating cash flow
 - Weekly offerings ~\$6,700; online giving adds ~\$66,700.
 - Copier cost reductions implemented.
- Insurance and flood coverage
 - Flood insurance costs ~\$33,000 annually; minimal cost difference to increase coverage.
 - Awaiting FEMA reimbursements with skepticism.

Old Business >

- Further Discuss Finances
- Volunteers for Streaming Service
- Bake & Bible Study group > need more participants
- Talk to Church Members about Donations for AC unit and Magazine Ministry Team Fair/Promotion

- The council aims to improve workflow and operational clarity across multiple domains, focusing on training, volunteer reliability, and financial systems
- Investigate trash service alternatives to reduce costs, including possible use of city services; report findings to council, Verify IRS receipt of quarterly payroll filings; address discrepancies with Realm software and IRS
- Organize simplified coffee hour starting with cookies and coffee to increase attendance; recruit volunteers for hosting rotation
- Post council meeting minutes and newsletters on church website to increase transparency
- Prepare letter to SBA requesting payment relief and forgiveness
- Schedule a half-day retreat to review and update commissions for 2026-2027
- Fund raiser activities

New Business

- Limited live chat interaction, mostly older viewers
 - Plans to improve engagement; Andrew to assist.
- Council Members to get their pictures taken for Newsletter.
- Better coordination and communication with the bank and vendors are planned to reduce redundant fees and improve payment processing.
- Pastor offering 4 week class on prayer
- Council needs to schedule a congregational information gathering prior to Memorial Day weekend to keep congregation up to date.
- Set up small section in newsletter entitled Council Communicator. > to give a monthly overview of what the council is working on.
- Jo Bremer has begun updating household records.

We Gather Discerning God's Direction at First Lutheran

- **Where do we perceive God is nudging us (What is going well)?**

More out in the community

Grief Share

More programs offered for Adults, Youth and Family > for Church & outside Church

Budget, Website

Family Ministry

- **What might we need to reconsider (What is not going well)?**

AC Unit

Worship Team. > Different views for services is difficult > tradition is good. Maybe piano, etc.

Certain individuals doing everything

Fema

Credit Card

- **What is something new we perceive God is prompting us to consider?**

Classes

Get new members more involved

Kids Corner cont

Involvement in community

We Prepare to Depart

- What do we need to communicate to the Congregation? >
 - Upcoming events
 - Recognizing New Families
 - God is nudging us to go forth in the community
- Call for volunteers to relay notes to the Congregation
- Reminders of items to be followed up on > see new business
- Closing prayer for the Congregation
- Lord's Prayer