

Church Council Minutes
August 8, 2026

We Gather as God's People

- **Lighting of the Candle** > 6pm
- **Sharing Highs and Lows**
- Devotional: not done

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 George

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

Busy with Church Council Work Day

• **Action Items from Director**

• **Andrew Lockhart >**

• **Missions >**

- Cont with Gulf Breeze, ACCT
- Good communications with office, congregation
- More involvement

• **Parish Life>**

Men's Club does most of the cooking

Need Coffee hour, maybe game night in PM

Birthday Cards

Coffee Bar in Narthrex > \$2,000

Back of church > keep Kids Corner, Set up tables for coffee

Bake & Bible > bake before Church & serve after

- **Faith Formation >**

- More involvement

- Increase attendance

- Goal: kids being vessel bearers/more involvement

- **Nancy Carpenter**

- **Worship team >**

- Need new people

- Music > drums, pastor singing

- Continue to bring change

- **Archives>**

- Krista updated Facebook, website > doing more on line

- **George Vasquez >**

- **Property**

- Jim >

- See Financial Report

- **Stewardship>**

- No Updates

- Cont with >

- Work with Church Council on finances

- Talk to congregation regarding donations and participating in fundraising activities

- Stewardship & Church Council to meet annually

- **Senior Pastor's Report > see attached**
- **Youth, Family & Communications Coordinator's Report> see attached**
- **Presidents Report>**
 - Nothing to report
- **Vice President's Report > nothing to report**
- **Financial Officer's Report >**
 - Financial Stability: Church has \$17K reserves, \$30K checking; \$10K used for bills; early August giving aids cash flow.
 - Loan and Payments: SBA loan one month late; catching up to avoid fees; IRS help ongoing with \$1,200 monthly payments.
 - Financial Controls: Checks written by Krista and signed separately; use of Realm and Vanco tools for reporting and oversight.
 - Budget Constraints: Year-to-date giving \$433,838; limited expense cuts possible; outreach giving fixed at \$1,800 monthly.
 - Staffing Needs: Hiring financial support discussed to ease workloads, improve controls without losing oversight.
 - Community Focus: Attendance growth linked to sustaining giving; youth and mission programs funded through grants and endowments.

Old Business >

Fund raiser activities

- Council Members to get their pictures taken for Newsletter.

New Business

- Pastor offering 4 week class on prayer
- Set up small section in newsletter entitled Council Communicator. > to give a monthly overview of what the council is working on.
- Challenge to attract and retain new families and younger generations amid congregation fatigue
- How to increase giving beyond current 130 contributors and improve participation?
- How to get people to attend stewardship focus groups?
- Should church pursue direct stewardship communications or continue indirect approach?
- Continue coordinating and publicizing parish life fellowship activities;

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)?

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