

Church Council Minutes
June 16, 2026

We Gather as God's People

- **Lighting of the Candle** > 6pm
- **Sharing Highs and Lows**
- Devotional: Jim Gainer

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

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

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

• **Action Items from Director**

• **Andrew Lockhart >**

• **Missions >**

Cont with Gulf Breeze, ACCT,
Seaside Fare > toiletries

- **Parish Life>**

Men's Club does most of the cooking
Need Coffee hour, maybe game night in PM
Birthday Cards

- **Faith Formation >**

Refer to Krista's report
Meet tomorrow
Kids had great time at camp> Chef Mary, EMT's,
Netherland Orange Bus Drove by.

- **Nancy Carpenter**

- **Worship team >**

- Nothing to report

- **Archives>**

- Krista updated Facebook, website

- **George Vasquez >**

- **Property**

Jim >

- Working on getting AC fixed > need monetary help

Roof conts to leak in chapel

Cont with several bids for AC

- 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>**

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
- Stewardship & Property to meet tomorrow

- **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 >**
- Payroll costs cut by \$5,400/month; nearly \$88,000 in unpaid payroll
Recent donation and reduced payroll costs eased summer financial pressures
 - Payroll expenses dropped by about \$4,000 per month; Portico costs reduced by \$1,400 per month.
 - Offering deposits remain steady but summer giving uncertainty persists.
- Unpaid payroll taxes totaling nearly \$88,000 plus over \$25,000 in penalties require resolution
 - Discussions underway with IRS revenue officer for monthly payment plan starting at \$1,200/month.
 - Exploring use of funds owed from fanfare camp to cover these payments temporarily.

- Endowment board approved an advance of approximately \$32,000 from next year's funds
 - The advance is structured to avoid asset sales while helping current cash flow needs.
 - Conversation led by Doug Rogers aims to balance church needs with endowment sustainability.
- Decision made to allocate \$25,000 of endowment advance to credit card debt reduction
 - Credit card balance ranges between \$50,000 and \$53,000 with about 18% interest.
 - Remaining \$7,600 retained as a buffer for general fund supplementation if needed.
 - Council formally approved this allocation to reduce costly interest payments.
- Ongoing efforts to optimize procurement and minimize credit card use
 - Staff encouraged to use vendors that bill directly rather than immediate credit card charges.
 - Amazon and Fortress subscriptions remain primary purchasing channels with careful price comparison
- Ann Motions to allocate \$25,000 of endowment advance to credit card debt reduction, Nancy 2nds the motion. All in Favor, None opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business >

- Schedule a half-day retreat to review and update commissions for 2026-2027 > Scheduled for August 8, 2026 > 9a-3p
- 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)?**

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