

Church Council Minutes
May 12, 2026

We Gather as God's People

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

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

Guests > Stewardship members: Joe Concienne, Noel Spencer,
Billie Vasquez, Lucy Pedley.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

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

- **Action Items from Director**
- **Andrew Lockhart >**

- **Missions >**

Need shelving or book shelves for Library at Davids House

- **Parish Life>**

Nothing to report

- **Faith Formation >**

Refer to Krista's report

Meet tomorrow

- **Nancy Carpenter > not available**

- **Worship team >**

- Nothing to report

- **Archives>**

- Nothing to report

- **George Vasquez >**

- **Property**

Jim >

- Working on getting AC fixed > need monetary help

Roof conts to leak in chapel

Have 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>**

- Work with Church Council on finances

- Talk to congregation regarding donations and participating in fundraising activities

- Financial Situation: The church has a \$100,000 debt from unpaid payroll taxes and credit cards, despite \$570,000 annual contributions
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- Fundraising Needs: Transparency with the congregation is critical for increased giving; direct fundraising campaigns are being considered.
- Air Conditioner Costs: Current bids for air conditioner replacement range from \$325,000 to over \$400,000, with installation expected soon.
- Member Engagement: Seasonal activities like pancake sales and community events aim to boost participation and donations while the sanctuary is under repair.
- Long-term Viability: There are concerns about the church's facilities size relative to costs; stewardship plans include exploring partnerships and future fundraising.
- Operational Improvements: Financial tracking is being improved with Excel tools; communication through newsletters and meetings will enhance transparency.
- 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 >**

- Discussed \$100,000 debt impact and fundraising challenges amid summer giving slowdown
- Need to balance immediate financial needs with sustainable long-term church finances
- Open: Should church pursue direct stewardship communication or continue traditional indirect methods? [^1](#)
- Explored replacement options, new Freon (R-450) complications, and conflicting installation timelines (3 weeks to 3 months)

Old Business >

- Schedule a half-day retreat to review and update commissions for 2026-2027
- 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.
- Met with Stewardship > see above section
- 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?

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