

**Church Council Minutes
March 10, 2026**

We Gather as God's People

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

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 Ann & Stephanie

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting:

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

- **Action Items from Director**

- **Andrew Lockhart >**
 - **Missions >**

- Cont with Helping Hand, serving meals to Gulf Breeze, & ACCT
- Lent Dinners are going well

- **Parish Life>**

Coffee hour attendance is very low; a simplified offering of cookies and coffee is planned to lower barriers, with volunteers needed to host occasionally > need to discuss with congregation

- **Faith Formation >**

Krista is doing great job > majority of families have stayed with change

- **Nancy Carpenter**

- **Worship team >**

- Prepare for Holy week

- **Archives>**

- Nothing to report

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

- cont Recruitment & training of individuals as Greeters
- cont Box Society > free concert> recorded > May 8-9, 22-23 in 2026

- **George Vasquez >**

- **Property**

Jim >

-working on getting AC fixed > need monetary help

- Walk in Freezer fixed

-Roof conts to leak in chapel

-Cont Replacement of Roof on Lyceum > lady from Historical Foundation may help with a Grant > Jim to meet with them

- **Stewardship>**
 - Trying to set up meeting
 - Talk to congregation regarding donations

- **Senior Pastor's Report > see attached**

- **Youth, Family & Communications Coordinator's Report> see attached**
 - Strengthened Youth and Family Programs: Faith formation under Krista has retained families, with new curriculum and interactive activities for kids.
 - Membership Roll Cleanup: The church is reviewing membership records, targeting outdated entries and planning a congregational meeting for updates in May.
 - The group recognizes a slow but steady rebuilding of community involvement

 - The children's curriculum now aligns with Sunday services, using a mix of Bible story readings, mystery verses, and interactive activities.

 - Expanded Fellowship and Community Events
 - Upcoming events include a Palm Sunday, Resurrection Egg Hunt, and Holy Week gatherings.
 - A youth movie night and crafts event are scheduled to boost engagement across age groups.
 - The church is exploring creative survey formats to increase congregation interaction and feedback during services.
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- **Presidents Report>**

- Doryn Glenn to have class on Cyber Security possibly April 26, 2026 after church
- Possible fund raiser > chicken wing competition > possibly Spring 2027
- The website needs clearer access to council minutes, team information, and newsletters to improve transparency and community connection.
- The council identified the church website as outdated, planning a focused refresh with fresh perspectives
- Taco Fiesta

- **Vice President's Report > did not attend**

- **Financial Officer's Report > see attached**

- February's deficit was \$15,940; monthly expenses near \$50,000 against \$35,000 income highlight financial challenges.
- Technology and Cybersecurity Needs: Over 150 passwords need consolidation, and a cybersecurity training session is planned for late April to address risks.

Old Business >

- Further Discuss Finances
- Volunteers for Streaming Service
- Confirmation Classes started
- Bake & Bible Study group > need more participants

New Business

- Council Members to get their pictures taken for Newsletter.
- 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
- Better coordination and communication with the bank and vendors are planned to reduce redundant fees and improve payment processing.
- A retreat or half-day session is being considered to refresh commission goals, with a possible focus on advancing the RIC inclusivity initiative, supported by a potential external facilitator
- 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

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.
Poor Communication
Certain individuals doing everything
Cliques within Groups
Fema
- **What is something new we perceive God is prompting us to consider?**
Classes
Get new members more involved
Kids Corner cont

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