ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
April 21, 2026, ~ 6:30 pm

Voting Members Present: Afton Brown, Gaylon Walter, Lee Keffer, D J Klema, Amber Ruggels, Melinda Olson, Mark W. Johnson, Heather Pohlman, Paul Phillips, Alex Krug (Youth), Pastor Teri Sutherlin and nonvoting member Hadlee Brown.
Voting Members Absent: n/a
Others Present: n/a

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the March minutes. It was also moved, seconded and passed to approve the March treasurer's report as presented.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Under New Business e) Chad Langdon the Bishp's Associate of ELCA Central States Synod

COMMUNICATIONS

The Dream Theater sent a Thank You for the church's philanthropic donation.

REPORTS

EDUCATION – Afton Brown reported that plans for the Bible school are going along fine and that April 28 is the next meeting.

EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY - No report.

PROPERTY – Gaylon Walter reported that on this upcoming Monday we will be switching over to AC and that the preventive maintenance will be completed this day as well. He mentioned the remaining bell tower cosmetic repairs that Blaine Stoppel must finish.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE - No report**.**

TECHNOLOGY – No report.

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Melinda Olson provided an update regarding the recent Worship and Music committee meeting. During the meeting, it was noted that Pastor Teri Sutherlin is currently preparing a preliminary version of the church bulletin. The intention is to reduce the amount of paper used by streamlining the bulletin's content. This revised bulletin will be implemented on a trial basis throughout the summer months. The committee will evaluate its effectiveness and determine whether the new format meets the church's needs.

YOUTH – Alex Krug reported that the Youth Group made $550 from the Easter breakfast and Hadlee Brown reported that they will be going to play miniature golf on May 13.

CEMETERY – There are some plots that are possibly going to be up for sell back to the church.

PASTOR - A written report was submitted and reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) History Display (Delores Janne) - Discussion on the room where it's staged was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to move the staged items to another room by June 1.
b) Custodian Position – Amber Ruggels is looking into advertising the position on KRSL until May 5. At the conclusion of these two weeks, Lee Keffer and Gaylon Walter will follow up to review our progress.

c) Pastor Evaluation Committee – There was discussion on how to move forward, and it was decided to ask for a someone from the congregation to be on this committee along with the President and Vice President of the Church Council. It will be mentioned in our next newsletter that we are looking for a volunteer.
d) Executive Committee – There was discussion and it was moved, seconded and passed to go into Executive Session for 10 minutes for 7:25 to 7:35, it went over 7 minutes, and it was moved, seconded and passed to go again into Executive Session for 10 minutes from 7:32 to 7:42 and we went over 2 minutes. It was then tabled until the next Church Council Meeting.
e) Philanthropic Finalization – The results were reviewed and a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the Ashland Community Foundation Fire Relief Fund for our second donation following the vote of the congregation.
f) Lenten Wednesday Service Offering – Deferred to next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Council Resignation/ New Appointment Process – John Dumler resigned for personal reasons; it was brought up that someone could fill his open seat. It was moved, seconded and passed to add to the newsletter the opening and to ask if someone from the congregation was interested in filling the roll.
b) Disposal of Church excess – Forward to the next Council Meeting.
c) Central States Assembly June 6th - It will be set up to watch in the Parish Hall, and we will be adding to the newsletter that we are looking for 2 members one male and one female to represent the congregation in the votes.

1. May 3rd Logistics – Bible School Picnic – No needs identified; using city picnic tables is under consideration.

DISCUSSION

a) Music from the funeral service of John Schwien was discussed. It was brought up that Curtis arrived at 10:29 and the funeral started at 10:30, so there was no music when those attending entered. There had already been contact about this with the funeral home for them to be able to follow up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Executive Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm.
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Minutes approved by St. John Lutheran Church Council on May 19, 2026