ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday August 18, 2026, 6:30pm

Voting Members Present: Afton Brown, Hadlee Brown nonvoting member, Mark Johnson, Lee Keffer, DJ Klema, Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, Amber Ruggels, Pastor Teri Sutherlin, and Gaylon Walter
Voting members Absent: Paul Phillips
Others Present:

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

The July minutes and July treasurer's report were individually moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

n/a

COMMUNICATIONS

n/a

REPORTS

EDUCATION – Sunday School will resume on September 13. There are 10 teachers and three classrooms this year. Confirmation will follow the same format as last year, but Kim would like to find someone to lead future classes. Afton also discussed the Blessing of the Keys and Backpacks.

EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY – no report

PROPERTY – No report

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE – Written finance report submitted.

TECHNOLOGY – No report

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Peggy Anschutz's retirement reception was discussed. The reception will be held after the We Gather as One Service, and refreshments will be served; members are asked to bring cookies. The new bulletins did not appear to work well, so returning to the previous format was suggested. Confirmation pictures are scheduled for October 25.

YOUTH – Youth meet this past week for the first time after their summer break; they discussed goals for the year and up coming items.

CEMETERY – Talked about Mark Mai and the proposed gazebo repair.

PASTOR - A written report was submitted by Pastor Teri Sutherlin and reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Council Member Bill Stoughton – Lee spoke with Bill, who volunteered to complete the year as a council member. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to appoint Bill Stoughton to serve through the end of the year.
b) Survey Mailout with letter – The mailing will go out soon and Lee has spoken with Sherri Stoppel and reviewed the upcoming process with her.

c) Mutual Ministry Mark Mai, etc.. – Mark Mai and others where discussed to be part of this committee, the size of it was also discussed. The committee will include five members and one youth member. A motion was made to appoint Sara Krug, Crecia Reeves, Mark Mai, Elaine Voos, Alex M. Krug as youth member, and Mark Johnson as the council representative. The motion was seconded and passed.
d) Custodian – Pastor Teri Sutherlin, Amber Ruggels, and John Kreutzer interviewed Laura Noel on August 12, 2026, and recommended hiring her. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to move forward with onboarding and to hire her at $15 an hour. The revised onboarding paperwork will be sent to the council for approval, and Lee Keffer will follow up.
e) Cemetery Gazebo – This was disused in Reports under Cemetery.
f) Kurt Mai- contribution – Kurt has been contacted and is sending a check.
g) Gather as One – Just mentioned as a reminder.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Callabresi Bid – The motor is burned out, and the full unit must be replaced because the motor cannot be replaced separately. The total cost for both units is $4,173.34, to be paid from Capital Improvement. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to proceed with the repairs.
b) Pastor Leave, Sept. 29–Oct. 11 – Pastor Teri requested time away to attend the mandatory Fall Theological Conference from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 and a second conference from Oct. 8 to 10. She will use vacation time from Sept. 29 through Oct. 11. Pastor Roger will provide pastoral care during her absence; congregants should contact Lee Keffer, who will forward requests to Pastor Roger. This information will be included in the upcoming newsletter. John Dumler is currently scheduled to cover services on Oct. 3–4 and Oct. 10, and Pastor Teri is exploring whether the youth can cover the Oct. 11 service. A motion to approve the time off was made, seconded, and passed.
c) Vice President / Property – Afton Brown will serve as Vice President moving forward and should be added to the signature cards at all financial offices. Chuck Gudenkauf and Brian Dinkel were suggested as possible co-leads for the Property Committee.
d) Calendar – The council discussed that Pastor Teri's office hours were not listed on the calendar. A recommendation was made to set the hours for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Teri confirmed that those hours would work. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to post these office hours on the calendar going forward.
e) Bishop Plan – Lee Keffer confirmed that everyone had received the plan presented by the Bishop.

DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is going to be a celebration for Juanita Flegler on Sept. 19 for her 85th birthday.

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm with Pastor Teri leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, at 5:30 pm.
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 15th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.