ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, Feb 19, 2026 – 6:30pm

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.
Voting members Absent: John Dumler
Others Present: n/a

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

The January minutes were approved after recording that D J Klema was present. The approval followed proper motion, seconding, and passage. The treasurer's report for January was submitted, followed by a motion to approve it that was seconded and passed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Under Unfinished Business, item D) was updated to include pastor time off. Under New Business Council positions were brought to the beginning of the meeting to have Council members placed into their new positions. Council meeting dates and times were added as E) and Executive session was moved to F) Under Discussion A) Newsletter Calendar was added, B) Standing committees were added.

Council Positions- Treasurer and Secretary Council Positions were voted on with paper ballet at this time. Amber Ruggels was voted in as Treasurer, and Mark Johnson was voted in as Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS

Lee Keffer handed out copies of the Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church accompanied with our by-laws, St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Policy and our church holiday pay policy.

Pastor Teri Sutherlin handed out copies of her Letter of Call and a copy of duties and responsibilities of Church Council Standing Committees.

REPORTS

EDUCATION – Afton Brown shared that Vacation Bible School will take place on May 3rd. Everyone is invited to lunch after the 10:30 server that day. Assistance is required for setting up tables outdoors and for grilling burgers and hotdogs.

EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY - No report. Lee Keffer commented that John Dumler might lead this committee.

PROPERTY – Gaylon Walter shared that the kitchen cabinet door has now been installed. Repairs have been completed on the front doors. The bell tower ceiling is all but done with just a little more work still needing to be done to have it completed 100%. Work on the walls will occur simultaneously. There was a brief discussion about the guttering system and repairs to the north brick wall.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE - No report**.**

TECHNOLOGY – Pastor Teri Sutherlin reported a battery backup has been installed and that the grant paying for Microsoft Windows has ended. Discussion was then on how we would pay for it going forward.

WORSHIP & MUSIC – March 29 is Palm Sunday, and the children will have the donkey parade. April 5th is Easter with the 7am sunrise service. The meal following the service on May 3rd was talked about. May 3rd is also Senior Recognition Day.

YOUTH - The Youth group's Soup Supper brought in $994 with approximately 100 people attending.
CEMETERY - No report.
PASTOR - A written report was submitted**.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) History Display- Discussion postponed.
b) Dream Theater, Meals on Wheels (Philanthropic Donation)- Questions and concerns were brought up on donating to the Dream Theater. It was moved, seconded and passed that we would sponsor an appropriate movie, and the rest be donated to their building upkeep fund. It was found that the Meals on Wheels was not properly vetted, and that there are no Meals on Wheels of Kansas. A motion was made and amended, seconded and passed to have a new congressional vote on March 29th following the 10:30am service. To choose from Kansans impacted by wildfires, Lutheran World Disaster Relief and Meals or Wheels of America.
c) Custodian Position- It was moved, seconded, and passed to advertise on Facebook and KRSL for a period of 3 weeks as the open position. The hiring committee for interviewing was formed with Melinda Olsen, Gaylon Walter, and John Kreutzer.
d) Pastor Time off- it was moved, seconded and passed to approve Pastors time off from March 3rd through the 6th.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Update contact list- New Members information was given to be added to the contact list.
b) Signature approval of new Treasurer and Secretary- It was moved, seconded and passed to add Amber Ruggels and Mark Johnson to the signature list. Amber Ruggels needs the minutes of this meeting to move forward.
c) Evaluation for Pastor/review items in the Call Letter- There was discussion and decided to forward to the next meeting.
d) Meeting Dates and Time- It was moved, seconded and passed to move the Church Council Meetings to the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm starting in April. The March meeting will be on the 24th at 6:30pm.
e) Executive Session: Office Admin Contract/Council Approval/Concerns- It was moved, seconded and passed to go into executive session without Pastor Teri Sutherlin for 30 minutes, starting at 7:58pm. It was moved, seconded, and passed, to continue for 15 minutes starting at 8:30pm. At 8:45pm it was moved, seconded and passed to continue for 15 minutes with Pastor Teri Sutherlin. At 9:00pm was moved, seconded and passed to continue for 15 minutes Session ended at 9:09pm.

DISCUSSION

a) Newsletter Calendar- It was moved, seconded and passed so that the council will review the calendar before printing.
b) Standing Committees- Pastor Teri Sutherlin suggested using the handout "Duties and Responsibilities of the Church Council as a starting point. Deferred to the subsequent meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Executive Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:30 pm.
Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm.