**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**COUNCIL MEETING**
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026**

**Voting Members Present:** Afton Brown, Carol Fritz, Lee Keffer, D J Klema, Kylie Stoppel, Melinda Olson, Pastor Teri Sutherlin.
**Voting members Absent**: Alex Krug, Heather Pohlman, Gaylon Walter
**Others Present**: Hadlee Brown, John Dumler, Mark Johnson

**INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER**

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Under New Business c) Kylie Stoppel requested that we add Power Church. d) Melinda Olson added KRSL broadcasts

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A letter was received from Navajo Lutheran Mission requesting support. The letter was passed to the council for review and will be addressed later in the meeting.

**REPORTS**

**EDUCATION -** Afton reported that Sunday School and Confirmation classes have resumed. The committee held a meeting on January 12 and have begun to discuss plans for VBS.

**EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY -** No report**.**

**PROPERTY -** No report.

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE** - No report**.**

**TECHNOLOGY** - No report.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC -** A meeting will be scheduled after Altar Guild organizes for 2026.

YOUTH - The Youth group has resumed meetings and met on January 14. They are working on plans to hold a soup supper prior to Ash Wednesday services on February 18.

**CEMETERY** - No report.

**PMA** - A written report was submitted. John Dumler stated that he plans to resign from this position January 31, 2026. He will continue with pulpit supply for St. John as needed, but will also serve surrounding communities.

**PASTOR -** A written report was submitted**.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a) The annual report has been finalized and The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 @ 11:30 am. Alternate weather date is February 1, 2026.

b)Interviews have been set to fill the clerical position.

c) The Philanthropic Benevolence nominees will be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting. The following are the current nominees: Lutheran Disaster Relief (within the United States), Russell Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, and the Dream Theater.

d) Several council positions are open and need to be filled. Names of nominees will be presented and voted on at the annual meeting.

e) The year end endowment funds from the Edward Jones Accounts have been disbursed as follows: 5249 EJ Endowment - $ 4,666.00, 9370, EJ Endowment - $8,093.13, and 2818 EJ Endowment - $2,951.96. It had also been passed that the cemetery account is capped at $1,000,000.00 and any amount above that level will be disbursed. That amount for 2025 exceeded this limit so $ 23,365,76 was disbursed leaving a balance of $1,000,000.00 in that account. From the total of these amounts, $ 20,000 was placed into the general fund, and the remaining $19,9076.35 was placed in the capital improvement fund.

f) - We are continuing to work on organizing a committee to set up a historical display. This request will be put in the newsletter for anyone who is interested to volunteer.

g) We are continuing to pursue the idea of pulpit supply with the possibility of attracting an intern. A committee will also be formed to pursue what needs to be done to accomplish this process.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) It was noted that Ash Wednesday is on February 18, which begins the season of Lent.

b) We would like to round up keys for the church that have been checked out to individuals and they no longer use them. An appeal to return those keys will be placed in the newsletter.

c) Kylie Stoppel reported that our Power Church system is outdated and we need to upgrade it to be able to continue support and not lose church information. A motion was made, seconded and passed to do the upgrade to this system for a fee of $ 175.00 This money will be taken from a memorial fund.

d) The church services are live streamed to KRSL radio with several members of the congregation using this. Funding is beginning to run low. It was suggested that we request donations from members who are interested in supporting this and could have their names listed as a sponsor for the broadcast. This request will be pursued in the future.

e) After reviewing the letter from the Navajo Lutheran Mission, it was decided not to send support at this time, but to keep it in mind from the 2027 Philanthropic Fund.

**DISCUSSION**

There was no discussion at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Executive Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:30 pm.**
**Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm.**