ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday July 21, 2026, 6:30pm

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

Voting members Absent:

Others Present: n/a

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

n/a

COMMUNICATIONS

n/a

REPORTS

EDUCATION – This school year, we are going to reset when students are confirmed. Moving from Confirmation on Reformation Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The 2026 class will be confirmed on October 25 and those confirmands completing the class in Spring 2027 will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. Going forward, Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost. Sunday School planning has begun.

EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY – no report

PROPERTY – The work on the Parsonage has been completed. The work on the Brick has also been finished.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE – Written report submitted.

TECHNOLOGY – no report

WORSHIP & MUSIC – The paraments have been returned and cleaned. A plan is needed for storing them in the sacristy, as mold is present and water has leaked twice in the storage area. Deb Karst is to reach out to Gaylon Walter of the Property Committee to discuss possible solutions.

YOUTH – the youth are unable to help with the RCACF banquet.

CEMETERY – The cemetery has been sprayed and mowed.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Council Member Search – There has been no one coming forward.
b) Brick Work/Bees – Brick work has been completed, with more than 20 bricks replaced and all areas patched. During the work, it was discovered that the area behind the brick is solid concrete. The guttering still needs to be addressed. The bees have returned, and Kenny Meade has been contacted and has assessed the situation. Scaffolding is needed to complete the work, and Blaine Stoppel is donating the use of his scaffolding. Blaine and Kenny will meet to plan when the work can be completed.

c) Simple Survey to Congregation for Pastor Evaluation – The evaluation form was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to use the form and send it to the congregation, with Lee Keffer following up to ensure completion.
d) Mutual Ministry – Two members have agreed to serve on this committee. The council discussed additional potential members, aiming for representation from different services and age groups, including at least one youth. A list of congregation members was compiled, and they will be contacted to gauge their interest.
e) Custodian – The council discussed how to move forward because there has been no serious interest in the position. The job posting will be revised and readvertised to emphasize flexible hours and a starting wage of $15 per hour. The position will continue to be advertised until the next meeting or until it is filled. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to increase John Kreutzer's pay to $18 per hour beginning with the next pay period.
f) Back-to -School Giveaway – Reviewed that this will be happening.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Building use Roberta Hupfer – The building has been requested for a funeral, it was moved, seconded and passed to allow the request.
b) Mai Contribution – A $25,000 donation is being made to the church, with the request that it be used for a specific church need rather than placed in the general fund. The council discussed possible uses and agreed that a new, easier-to-use sound system would be a good option. The donation will be held in the general fund until it is used, and Lee Keffer will inform the Mai family how the funds will be used. Heather Pohlman will look for someone who can recommend appropriate equipment. If funds remain, the council discussed using them for Sunday School music.
c) August Calendar Review – It was asked to list the Pastors office hours on the calendar.
d) Retirement Reception – Peggy Anschutz – Melinda Olson shared the plan for the reception after we gather as one service at the end of the month.
e) Bishop Visit – A motion was made seconded and passed to go int Executive Session for 15 minutes at 7:56. The session ended at 8:11.

DISCUSSION

a) Paul Phillips will not be here for our next meeting because of Cataract Surgery.
b) Bulletins – Information on what is being heard for the congregation was shared, with most people attending the Saturday night service not liking them. We will continue the experiment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, at 5:30 pm.
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 18th, 2026, at 6:30 pm.