

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 23, 2025**  
**Room 127 & Google Meet**

**Present:** Linda Anderson, Marc Anderson, Quent Boyken, Stephanie Cox, Megan Gerasch, Threase Harms, Jill Hyda, Pam Lundell, Bill Morris, Pastor Chris Olkiewicz, Maren Steensen, John Swanson, Barb Waymire, Donna Yeager

**Absent:** Finn Cox, Sally Watson

***We Gather in God's Name***

I. Call to Order

- Boyken called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- Swanson shared a passage from *Meet My Psychiatrist* by Les Blacklock related to nature and travel. Swanson opened the group in prayer.

II. Approval of the Agenda

Harms moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Morris. Motion carried.

III. Secretary's Report

Swanson moved to approve the August 2025 minutes. Seconded by Harms. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Waymire provided the report to Council. August was a strong month in general offering and has WHLC in a good position for the rest of the year. Waymire thanked the congregation for the continued contributions and wellbeing of WHLC. Finance Committee met and supports paying off the \$180,000 balance left in the mortgage in early 2026. The capital appeal fund currently is around \$118,000. As the 2026 budget is pulled together, Boyken asked Finance Committee to provide a proposal to Council.

Yeager moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Harms. Motion carried.

V. For the Good of the Order

- Lundell shared Boo Bash will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> and invited Council and congregation members to volunteer and participate.
- Linda Anderson thanked Jerry Jenkins for his help with several maintenance items.

VI. Pastor Report

- Pastor Chris reported October 5<sup>th</sup> will be an opportunity for a laying of hands and anointing of oil. Pastor Chris participated in the National Workshop on Christian

Unity at the ELCA headquarters in Chicago. Bishop Eaton was presented with a lifetime achievement ecumenist award. The fall theological conference will be held next week in Des Moines with all three Iowa synods convening together. The ELCA benefits plan is changing in 2026, and rates are increasing. Pastor Chris shared a couple church-wide events, including National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools and the Scherer Lecture with the Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla on misguided theologies. Both are being recognized/held on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. Old Business

- Reconciling in Christ
  - A proposed Welcome Statement was shared with Council and discussed. The ministry team would like the congregation to vote on the statement at the next Annual meeting. Council agrees with the statement. The next steps will have the statement communicated with the congregation for review and discussion. A couple of forums will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>. A follow-up short survey will be provided.
- Maintenance/Property Issues
  - Interior Painting & Repairs
    - An estimate has been received from Jerry Jenkins for painting Rooms 307 & 310 and some drywall work.
  - Sidewalk Replacement
    - The replacement will be proceed as previously discussed.
- Meals from the Heartland Ministry Team
  - Gerasch shared there is an open date on October 22 from 6-8 PM. Gerasch will confirm with Zach Meyer on the date and opportunity for youth and adults and will work on promoting the opportunity.
- Season of Creation Ministry Team
  - Steensen shared 20 people participated this year. Lundell shared the enjoyment of the event.
- Windsor Heights Fall Festival Ministry Team
  - Harms reported communication has been shared for members to sign-up to volunteer. The Parish Ed team discussed several activities. Volunteers are still needed for the afternoon.

## VIII. New Business

- Global Refuge Neighborhood Kits
  - Linda Anderson shared information on global refuge neighborhood kit, which would be a Lenten opportunity. The kits are used in the U.S. by immigrants and refugees. Monetary donations are preferred so that items may be purchased in bulk. The Health & Wellness kit option was preferred.

- Mosaic October 23<sup>rd</sup> Fundraiser
  - Linda Anderson reported that three members requested to participate at the table. Envelopes will be available at the back of the sanctuary for people to provide donations.
- Stewardship Emphasis
  - Commitment Sunday is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Campaign Focus
    - A focus may be on how generosity is a part of your Christian and faith journey and will include several temple talks from members. Boyken volunteered for one of the temple talks.
- Fall Clean-Up
  - Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> will be the tentative date for clean-up.
- Other
  - Steensen is coordinating college care packages. Communication is being shared in the Weekly Window. Packing is planned for November 16.
  - In discussion with the Worship Team, Linda Anderson volunteered to help with the service of remembrance reception for members and families on All Saints Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

IX. Announcements

- Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 6:30 PM

***We Close in Prayer & Send in Mission***

X. Reflections & Closing Prayer

Pastor Chris closed the group with the night prayer and a reading from Matthew 6:31-34.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Minutes taken by Jill Hyda  
September 23, 2025