

Faith Lutheran Church - Council Minutes Tuesday, February 17, 2026

President Scott Glaser	x	Vice President Jeff Schiller	x	Treasurer Jon Gelschus	x	Secretary Niki Pokornowski	x
Kim Pearson		John Olsen	x	Donna Eastman	x	Mackenzie Smith	x
Connie Stromseth	x	Monica Schiller	x	Lori Swift	x	Richard Settergren	x
		Dave Skaar	x	Justin Beck	x		
Pastor Scott	x	Pastor Dave	x	Pastor Paulus	x	Pastor Paul	x
Wendy Magruder	x	Marsha Schmit	x	Sara Wegner	x	Jeff Amundson	x
Austin Willhite	x	Laura Stowman	x	Kristen Durst			

Call to order by President, Scott Glaser @ 7:41 p.m. Devotions by Niki Pokornowski.

Secretary's Report: M/S/C to approve January 2026 meeting minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

- January's balance reflects a strong finish to 2025, putting us in a good position to cover months with lower offerings. Jan. had three-paydays, leading to use of \$38,500 from the General Fund balance.
- Leap of Faith capital campaign funds never mix with General Fund offerings. We currently have four 11/12-month CD's earning additional interest until Phase II can begin.
- Reports summarize offerings, ministry revenue and ministry expense. Jan. showed a \$38,519.10 loss.
- In the last 4 years, Jan. averaged 7.5% of annual giving; this year was 6% and \$9,000 below last year.
- M/S/C to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2026

Pastor/Staff Reports: Presented in writing.

Ministry Team Reports:

Children, Youth and Family (Mackenzie Smith and Richard Settergren)

- Introductions and getting to know each other.
- Pool party on Sunday, February 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Senior brunch will be held on Sunday, May 31.
- Signed up to serve the October Community Meal.

Church in the World (Kim Pearson and Connie Stromseth)

- Introductions and getting to know each other.
- Reviewed the benevolence/missions budget.
- The team is responsible for supplying the Blessing Box and staffing the community meals.

Congregational Life (John Olsen and Monica Schiller)

- March is the annual food drive, March 1– 29, 2026.
- Team will host the Lenten Picnic on Wednesday, March 18, from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.
- Signed up to serve the Community Meal in September.

Discipleship (Donna Eastman and Lori Swift)

- Welcomed new members to the team.
- Will be mailing Anniversary and Baptism cards.
- Team will deliver May baskets to shut-ins again this year.
- Working on worship at the Fairgrounds during the McLeod County Fair, Sunday, August 23, 2026.
- Signed up to serve the Community Meal in July and Treats in the Park.

Management (Exec Committee)

- Discussed financial reports and got signatures from the new officers for bank accounts.
- Discussed whether to try to repair the dishwasher or replace it. Waiting for some quotes from TEK.
- Reviewed the bell tower work that has been done and discussed what will be done in the spring.

Worship (Dave Skaar and Justin Beck)

- Introductions and getting to know each other.
- Started to discuss Maundy Thursday service with the disciples.
- Continue to discuss beautifying the worship spaces.
- Signed up to serve the June Community Meal.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting was uneventful and well-received. The congregation overall is in a good place.

Review of AD Theological Conference

- Conference was well attended. Faith's pastors enjoyed the time and fellowship with other pastors, seminary students and lay leaders. This was year one of a three-year series.
- District Convention will be held at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria on April 25, 2026.

Organ update—The tech will have to requote the cost of parts. The repair will then get scheduled.

New Business:

Personnel Committee presented four recent changes to the Personnel Handbook:

- 1) Define PT20+ as benefits-eligible and paid in full by the staff member.
- 2) Update language regarding the reviews and role of the Personnel Committee in the process.
- 3) Add language to the Leaves section about the Minnesota Paid Leave policy which began Jan. 1, 2026.
- 4) Clarify language on Minnesota regulations excluding the church from unemployment insurance.
M/S/C to authorize the Personnel Committee to make said changes.

We are reviewing and updating our Child Protection policy to cover our insurance carriers' review that is requested every five years. More information will be presented at the next council meeting.

Approve adding current congregational officers to bank signature cards. M/S/C to approve.

Leap of Faith Update—P2FT will host a first anniversary celebration on Sun., March 1. LoF has received 1.128 million over the course of a year; \$923,000 in gifts and interest and \$66,000 from households that didn't pledge. We have a lot of commitment. We need \$7 to \$8 million before we could begin to build.

FLIntern Update—We have received two applications and are expecting two more to be submitted. Interviews and checking references have begun. The staff is excited!

Ash Wednesday/Lent Preview—Faith will host pastors from Zion Lutheran in Buffalo Lake, St. Matthew's in Fernando and Christ the King again this year. The theme will focus on Jesus' parables.

Housekeeping

- A. Sign up for a month to lead devotions.
- B. Verify/update your contact information.
- C. Mark your service preference on the clipboard.
- D. New council members were asked to stay after adjournment for a brief trip to the sanctuary to review what is involved in helping with Holy Communion.

Communion Helper Schedule:

February 18 (Ash Wednesday)	12:00 p.m.	Lori	6:30 p.m.	Richard
March 1	8:00 a.m.	Dave and Monica	10:10 a.m.	Lola and Donna
March 8	8:00 a.m.	Scott and Tanja	10:10 a.m.	Al and Kim

If you cannot serve at an assigned service, please find someone to switch with you and let Wendy know.

Correspondence this month from various organizations to thank us for our support.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m. Devotions for March, Richard Settergren

Closing Prayer by Pastor Scott Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.