



"Connecting, Caring, and Sharing in Christ"

Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2026

12:15 pm

Welcome

- Discipleship Stories / Opening Prayer - Mike Bryan
 - o Christa Markworth
 - o Mike Bryan

Congregational Linkage and Action Items

- Pastoral Team Reports
 - o Pastor Jeff Hesse. Share.
 - School Ministry continues to grow. 245 of 245 students have re-enrolled for next year. There are 32 enrolled for K5 already and usually max out at 36 and then have a waiting list. 277 total have enrolled for next year.
 - Cameras. Cameras are installed at the school and now also the ECC and church inside and out. Can monitor in real time and access archived footage.
 - Financial Status. See also Financial Statement handed out at meeting start.

Net operating total looks pretty good because of the decrease from \$977,000 to \$144,055 due to pay off from the Preparing the Way campaign. The remaining \$144,000 will be paid off as pledges come in.

However, on the Revenue side, offerings were behind budget YTD \$84,000, School behind \$26,000 and ECC behind \$17,000 for a total of \$127,000. Part of this was less student enrollment as planned but increase in school choice made some of this up.

Under Expenses, staffing were \$41,000 under budget. Campus care expenses were over budget for necessary expenditures.
 - November and December offerings were below budget. Possible contributing factors: bad weather resulting in lower number of people in services, shifting of regular offering to campaign?

Reminder to think about raising giving percentage also when getting raises. God will provide but we are called to support his church and mission.
 - o Pastor Jeff Hesse for Pastor Stephen Reynolds who is out of town. Connect.
 - Pastor read Rachel Morton's letter to the congregation to the meeting. Thank you Rachel for your years of service and for the extras you have had to do since Doug's leaving. Prays for her.
 - o Pastor Chris Dhuse. Care
 - Ladies Aid had elections recently and new officers.
 - LWML on hiatus this month.

"Discipleship in as many places as possible"

- Stephen Ministries is ready to assist. Please keep this in mind if you or someone you know is going through a struggle of some kind and could use someone to walk alongside you. If you have interest in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Dhuse
 - Spiritual Health Ministry Team. Continues to do the Lord's work in contacting those who we have not seen in church in a while.
- o Pastor Jeff Hesse for Pastor Stephen Reynolds who is out of town. Connect.
 - Pastor Reynolds had listening sessions with all those involved in Worship Ministry. Top priorities to come out of these:
 - ✓ A desire for continued excellence in worship leadership,
 - ✓ Continued discipleship through Worship Ministry.
 - ✓ That the Worship Ministry staff be collaborative.
 - Introduction of Nik Mueller. New Director of Youth Ministry. He will join staff January 31 and will be moving into the newly renovated corner house. He will be a hired staff person until he becomes a rostered worker in May/June and then he will be available for a formal call.
- o Pastor Chris Dhuse. Care
SHMT Self Exclude list.

Michael Bechler	Jeffrey and Mary Olson
Virginia Fedler	Dean Voelker
Greyson and Logan Forler	Chad Zimmerman
- Motion made by Paul Johnson to approve the self-exclude list as listed.
Seconded by Tom Bruce.
Discussion. Team tries in every way to contact people who have not been in church for so many weeks, including calls and texts. Then a letter is sent and more calls/texts. If there is no response, then name put on self-exclude list.
Vote. Unanimous yea, no abstentions.
Motion carries.
- Motion made by Rich Buss to approve October 25 Congregational Meeting Minutes.
Seconded by Paul Johnson.
Discussion. None.
Vote. Unanimous yea, no abstentions.
Motion carries.
- John Steger. Leadership Board Member.
Corner House Update. The long term renter moved out and the house sat empty while congregation and LB were discussing 30 year plan for all of the properties. Randy Krell stepped up and offered to do the required fixes which included electrical work, basement, forced air heat and AC, paint, carpet and flooring among others. It is now at a point that it can be used to bless others like our new Director of Youth Ministry.
- Leadership Board changes.
Dustin Thumann stepped down in October and Lisa St. Peter agreed to come back as secretary. Jim Gunville also stepped down in January and Derrick Isler will be taking his position. Both positions are being filled as appointments of the Board. Both positions are up for re-election in June 2026.
- Preparing the Way. All but 11% of the pledges have already been collected and most paid on the debt. Pledges are meant to be done by March.
- Built on the Rock. Ministry Expansion Campaign. Steve Kaphingst. Campaign Director.

- o Please pray for the Leadership Board and the Building Committee
- o Timeline
 - Inform Phase. February 1-15. Forums Feb 1,3,12,15. Please plan to attend one!
 - Inspire Phase. Feb 16-March 20. Talking and wrestling with questions. Who are we? How can we encourage one another? How will this affect kids and families and the community? We will need to focus on God's mercy and grace and protect against the attacks that will come. Satan does not want us to succeed.
 - Commitment Sunday. March 22. Will bring commitments forward
 - March 23. The Leadership Board will meet and see what the congregation has committed to and make recommendations
 - Wednesday March 25 6:45. Congregational Meeting to learn about recommendations and vote on what to move forward on.
 - Volunteer Form. Presented QR code to volunteer form. Paper forms also available. Many volunteers will be needed over the next few months.
- o Lutheran Church Extension Fund. We continue to work with them and has been a huge asset as we are not "reinventing the wheel" as we go through this process.
- o Questions: What were the results of the LCEF readiness study? That it is likely that we will be able to raise \$3.5-4.5 M with a stretch of \$5M.
- o Closing Prayer. Pastor Jeff Hesse.
- o Motion made to close meeting by David West.

Humbly submitted,
Lisa St. Peter