



Monthly Council Meeting
for Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
in the Green Room
Minutes for 18AUG2026

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APPROVED
15SEP2026

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Lori Sampson

Attendance

----**Council members present:** Caitlin Browning (late), Dallas Genung (phone), Missy Keller, Chris Lundberg, Erica Paffel, Lori Sampson, Anthony Weber, Michael Weiss, Pastor Brian King

----**Council members absent:** Melissa Rambow, Katie Schmidt

----**Others present:** Stephanie Wendel [church accountant], Monique Wallis [guest], Karen Campbell [guest]

Devotional: Pastor Brian King opened with a devotional around Psalm 23 reminding us God is not distant but with us to offer peace, purpose, and protection during all our trials and challenges.

Agenda prepared by Lori Sampson with input from executive council was reviewed.

*It was moved by Pastor Brian King and seconded by Anthony Weber to
approve the agenda.*

The motion carried unanimously with discussion to add a new business item to review an offer to accept an instrument donation.

Presentation – LifeWise Academy: Monique Wallis and Karen Campbell shared a presentation and information about a branch of LifeWise Academy opening this fall in Taylors Falls, MN.

Monique Wallis and Karen Campbell exited the meeting.

Lori Sampson tabled discussion on this topic until the new business section.

Secretary Minutes prepared by Michael Weiss were shared prior to the meeting.

*It was moved by Erica Paffel and seconded by Pastor Brian King to
approve the 21JUL2026 council meeting minutes.*

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

Treasurer's Report provided by Chris Lundberg showed the monthly budget reflecting a net deficit of about \$16000 in a month in which a quarterly insurance payment was due. The Year To Date expenditures are up \$36000 from last year and the total revenues are up \$11000 from last year. The finance committee is hoping to make up some ground on the deficit this fall, and committees should be seeking ways to minimize expenses.

*It was moved by Missy Keller and seconded by Erica Paffel to
approve the Treasure's report.*

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

President's Report provided by Lori Sampson thanked everyone for the hard work put in supporting the summer activities including a great turn out for the Center City Days. A decrease in volunteer support at events has been a trend we hope to see reversed. Committees are reminded to submit their reports to the office for documentation in accordance with procedure. The communion and offering schedule was also circulated.

Pastor's Report provided by Pastor Brian King highlighted some of the July activities including his attendance as a keynote speaker at Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and Tuesday night worships taking place on the newly furnished deck.

Committee Reports

----**Children, Youth & Family** report from Erica Paffel announced the rummage sale proceeds exceeded \$2600 and that the committee is preparing for Rally Sunday on 13SEP including a potluck lunch; volunteers are still needed. Pastor Brian King added that an average of eight senior youths have been attending a weeknight class with a total of about 20 different youths present throughout the summer which is encouraging news for the fall. Sunday School has received positive feedback exploring the idea of starting during the second half of Sunday worship with dismissal right after the children's sermon.

----**Finance** report from Chris Lundberg recommends that the large received gift last month should be dedicated toward the elevator fund, and seeks a decision on what deck furniture should be purchased with the \$4000 of designated funds for this. Both these topics are on the agenda as old and new business items where they will be discussed in more detail. The committee has also requested analytics about the use of our Right Now Media subscription.

Action Item: Pastor Brian King will gather the Right Now Media analytics

----**Historical** report from Anthony Weber shared that the committee was concerned of potential damage to the pews from the installment of Near Field Communication (NFC) 'tap' tags. This item was already slated for new business discussion.

----**Memorial, Mission, and Ministry (3M)** report from Stephanie Wendel shared the monthly gifts and distributions for the month and that the committee is considering what funds might be drawn upon to support an elevator expense of at least \$150000. That funding amount is not available in liquid funds, so this research will be taking place in parallel with the quoting process to help expedite any plans.

----**Outreach** report from Lori Sampson provided briefings on many summer activities including the Midsömmar Festival, Karl Oscar Days parade, Harmony in the Park, Center City Days, and the upcoming Relay for Life. These events had/have a recurring theme of low volunteerism which may detract the committee from pursuing some activities in subsequent years (such as float building). First Responder gift basket planning is underway.

----**Property** report from Dallas Genung shared committee highlights including the completion of concrete work and the window project. Stained glass window sills were found to need repair, so this is being investigated. Elevator quotes are being explored, but initial quotes/feedback suggest the elevator may be inoperable a number of months. The property committee is concerned of potential damage to the pews from the NFC tags.

Discussion took place concerning some outstanding aesthetic work on window projects and finding that the property team will be considering on a case-by-case how to finish each area depending on usage and visibility: whether to paint or re-trim and if shade installment is required. These considerations help to keep project costs minimized.

----**Worship & Music** report from Pastor Brian King shared that attendance at the outdoor worship was solid, but found out late that the keyboard to be used did not work; a new instrument that could project sound to an outside audience will be discussed later in new business. Another highlight for the month includes looking forward to Rally Sunday. Some lowlights for the month include agreeing to discontinue the search for a Music Director position due to low interest and the reaction around the NFC tags – specifically to do with their installation.

----**Cemetery** did not meet earlier in the month so had nothing to report.

----**Personnel** report from Lori Sampson mentioned the committee met and she would be creating an organizational chart for them to review.

Old Business:

----**Capital Campaign Appeal Updates** Chris Lundberg shared a status report on projects and that the committee is looking into ways to drum excitement this fall, marking the one-year progress of the campaign.

----**Center City Days – Community Pig Roast** Chris Lundberg shared that about 350 meals were served, and the elevator stopped working right before the event which made movement to and from the kitchen a bit more labor intensive.

----**Community Meal Rep:** Lori Sampson shared the church is still seeking a candidate from within our membership to offer leadership at the event. Our adverts have directed anyone volunteering for this position to contact Sue Abrahamson.

----**Relay for Life:** Chris Lundberg shared an indoor backup plan is being formalized to help the coordination activities should it rain during the event. There will be over 800 luminary bags and setup will start at 3:30 p.m. on Friday.

----**Constitution Update/Cottage Meeting:** Lori Sampson mentioned this item did not require an immediate council action.

Lori Sampson tabled this item until the September council meeting.

----**Patio Furniture:** Chris Lundberg shared the need to order furniture for the patio with the funding available and summer products still in stock.

It was moved by Pastor Brian King and seconded by Caitlin Browning to

Purchase 16 chairs, 2 round tables, and a single long table.

The motion carried unanimously after a discussion offering guidance to Chris Lundberg with specific details that she and Sue Abrahamson will consider when preparing a quote for council to subsequently approve.

New Business:

----**Ilula Parish:** Pastor Brian King mentioned this item did not require an immediate council action.

Lori Sampson tabled this item until the September council meeting.

----**Chisago County Sheriff – National Child Safety Council (NCSC) – ‘Safetypup’ Program:** Lori Sampson briefly described this city initiative to help local youth gain awareness of risks on subjects like drugs & substances, mental health, and bullying. The program is seeking local financial support.

It was moved by Caitlin Browning and seconded by Anthony Weber to
Recommend the NCSC Program be considered by the 3M committee to determine appropriate funding from the outreach budget.

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

----**LifeWise Academy:** The presenters did not ask for more than open minds and hearts about how this programming can positively impact its participants. Council agreed that programs like this align with our mission; we will continue to educate ourselves about this program.

Action Item: Pastor Brian King will review the Gospel Project curriculum used by the LifeWise Academy and report findings to council.

----**Elevator:** Council was informed of the recent work and testing done on the elevator. One figure being discussed was on the order of \$150000 to refurbish our elevator. Some companies will quote higher prices, but these may include optional elements that would not be necessary to bring the elevator back to a functional status. The funding required is outside of budget and over the \$20000 threshold that requires a special congregational meeting be held. Quoting actions are in progress, but even if the project can immediately begin, the timing to complete is in the range of 3-4 months.

It was moved by Pastor Brian King and seconded by Chris Lundberg to

Designate a recent \$10000 donation toward an elevator fund.

The motion carried with discussion around the impact to events that take place on the middle floor of the church, such as the bazaar; organizers will need to consider how the elevator status may impact these events.

It was moved by Missy Keller and seconded by Erica Paffel to

extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. to complete the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

----**Window Sills:** Natural weathering of the stained-glass window sills was found during a painting task, and further review of the damage determined inaction to replace the rotting sills could compromise the windows. The project cost to repair the sills will be on the order of \$10000. This project will be brought to the 3M committee to determine what funds are/can be available and provide advice to the council on financial options.

----**Near Field Communication (NFC) 'Tap' Tags:** The means by which the NFC tags were installed in the sanctuary is a concern to some committees and parishioners. The tags are currently adhered directly to the pews. The intent of placement was for one of permanence, but the visual appearance has also been addressed as a topic of concern, and if that concern were to lead to the removal of the tags, any damage to the pews would be unfortunate. Damage due to prolonged contact has no way of being assessed, so removing the tags from the pew backs in the shortest time possible is being considered.

It was moved by Chris Lundberg and seconded by Pastor Brian King to

remove the NFC tags from the backs of the pews.

The motion carried with discussion that the NFC tags offer functional value that should be pursued; if removal causes unavoidable visual damage, the removal process should be paused until additional processes are explored; other non-permanent installation methods should be considered, so these tags can continue to be used and monitored over an evaluation period.

----Instrument Donation Opportunity: A Yamaha Clavinova (digital baby grand piano) in good condition was offered as a gift in kind to the church which the Worship and Music committee would like to pursue acquiring.

It was moved by Pastor Brian King and seconded by Erica Paffel to

examine the condition of the digital baby grand piano offered to the church and move forward with the acquisition pending the examination.

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Chris Lundberg and seconded by Caitlin Browning to

adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously without discussion.

Next scheduled meeting: 15SEP2026 at 7 p.m. in the Green Room of CLLC

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Weiss, Council Secretary