



1515 N Cascade Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

## February 17, 2026 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### Present

Yoshiko Anspach, Brenda Bocek, Bill Busovsky, Julie Furstenau, Stacy Gatto, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Betsy Pimentel, Chris White

### Absent

Deacon Joan Kuehn, Chris Lieber

### Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Bill Busovsky at 6:59 pm.

### Devotions (Bill Busovsky)

Bill noted that in addition to being Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday it was also Paczki Day (a Polish bakery treat – which he provided) and National Kindness Day. Bill read both Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:12 as examples where kindness is encouraged in the Bible and reminded us that many people can be uplifted by our acts of kindness.

### Approval of Minutes

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED JANUARY MINUTES AS PRESENTED\*\*\***

### Finance Committee Report (Betsy Pimentel)

Betsy presented the January financial report. The year is off to a good start, with offerings being almost \$13,000 over budget. Expenses are still lower than budgeted due to part-time positions still being unfilled. Yoshiko clarified the difference between the pledged and unpledged offering lines in the budget and noted that even though we are ahead of budget for the month, we had lower income for the month than in January 2025. This is an item that we should keep an eye on.

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT\*\*\***

### Senior Pastor Report

- Pastor Travis presented the list of 13 new members who will be joining the church on Sunday February 22. **Council approved adding these new members to the congregation.**
- Pastor Travis also reported that three children had been baptized and one wedding performed in the past two weeks.
- The Inspire Faith capital campaign continues. Pastor noted that since we did not hire a consultant for this campaign (a \$30K savings) the staff has had quite a bit of extra work to do. Planning continues (food, skits, videos and music) for the February 26<sup>th</sup> all-congregation dinner.
- Lenten packages were picked up this past Sunday. There will be soup suppers and a program called “The Art of Neighboring” on Wednesday nights during Lent.
- Eric and Pastor Travis have interviewed two people for the Sunday Tech Assistant position and have two additional applicants. It’s great to see qualified candidates for a limited-hours job.

### Old Business:

- Pastor Travis presented the renovation committee's report and spreadsheet of cost projections. The team from CRP has gone through the building looking for any deficiencies that need to be addressed before construction begins and the only item noted is that there will need to be asbestos abatement performed in the current narthex closets. Council raised several questions over line items in the cost projections which were discussed. Pastor Travis stated that we will have a campaign pledge amount total on March 22, after which time the cost projections can be re-visited to see what we can do.
- Stacy reported on behalf of the Sabbatical Committee. They have met with Pastor Carrie to get more information on her plans and how council and the congregation can best support her. Stacy presented a draft of the committee's article for the Ekklesia. Several comments/additions were suggested by council members and Stacy will incorporate this information into the final draft. After the committee's article appears in the Ekklesia, Pastor Travis will write an article for the following week, and then Pastor Carrie will write to the congregation in the following Ekklesia.

### New Business:

- The Synod Assembly will be April 23 – 25 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cherry Hills. Pastor Travis and Pastor Michaela will attend, along with 4 delegates from the congregation. Pastor will check to see if there are members of the congregation that indicated on their "Time and Talent" surveys that they would be interested in attending and asked council members if they were interested or knew of anyone that would be. We will need to decide on the delegates at the March council meeting.
- There was a request from the quilting group for \$800 from the endowment fund to purchase supplies for quilting fabrics and supplies. Council agreed that this is a great ministry and **approved the request**.

### Reminders

- The next meeting will be on March 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Peel House. Brenda Bocek will give the devotion.

**Adjournment with Prayer** – Pastor Travis at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Furstenau*

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Secretary