



1515 N Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**October 21, 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Present

Larry Bagley, Brenda Bocek, Bill Busovsky, Jason Fox, Julie Furstenau, Terry Hjelkrem, Deacon Joan Kuehn, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Chris White

Absent

Yoshiko Anspach

Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:00 pm.

Devotions (Larry Bagley)

Larry gave a devotion based on Isaiah 6:8 "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Larry shared how he felt that this verse overrides the "Never Volunteer" advice that he had been given during basic training and also related it to the movie "Fury". He felt that this verse encourages us to volunteer to become a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Approval of Minutes

Chris noted two additions to the 16 September regular council meeting minutes. The corrections will be made. The 23 September, special council meeting minutes were also presented.

*****COUNCIL APPROVED REGUALR SEPTEMBER MINUTES AS AMENDED AND THE
SEPTEMBER SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED*****

Finance Committee Report (Brenda Bocek)

There was no financial report, due to Yoshiko being off work for two weeks since her surgery. Financials will be presented at the November meeting.

Senior Pastor Report

- Pastor Travis summarized the feedback from the four ministry gatherings. Most of the discussions centered on the renovation plans; questions that were raised about honoring the history of the bell tower and making the exterior look more like a church. Pastor Travis estimated that roughly 100 people attended the four gatherings.
- Chris Lieber, Betsy Pimentel and Stacy Gatto were elected to church council at the annual meeting. The 2026 budget passed with only 2 "no" votes, and the renovation plan passed 247-34.
- Jeremy Ashida's resignation as the contemporary worship minister is effective on October 31. Becca Winn has been hired on a part-time basis for three months so all parties involved can decide if she is a good fit for this position permanently.

- The 2026 stewardship program is moving forward. Letters will be mailed to all members asking them to consider a \$20/month increase in giving (per household). Pledges will be received on November 9th.
- Pastor Travis and Tad Goodenbour have begun working on the capital campaign for the renovation. The campaign will be called “Inspire Faith.”
- Lane Pinnow is heading up the process of having the cracked heat exchanger in the sanctuary replaced. Olsen Heating will be submitting a bid for the project, and we will be monitoring carbon monoxide levels in the sanctuary if/when the heat needs to be turned on.
- Terry noted Pastor Michaela’s report item that she has started a Christian conversation group (Pax Christian Collective) on the Colorado College campus along with First Congregational Church and expressed his appreciation. Also, appreciation was expressed to Tad Goodenbour for his generosity to finance new choir robes.

Old Business

- The Key Person Insurance proposal was presented and approved. Terry Hjelkrem has generously volunteered to pay the first year’s premium on this policy.
- Having a written “Pet Policy” was discussed, and the decision was made to address this on an individual basis unless we start seeing an increase in the number of people who bring their pets to church functions. If this occurs, we will address the issue again and decide if a written policy limiting campus access strictly to service animals is needed.
- The list of new members presented in the council documents was approved.

New Business

- Pastor Travis will be discussing items brought up in the ministry gatherings with the architect.

Reminders

- The next meeting will be on November 18, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the Peel House. Terry Hjelkrem will give the devotion.

"Last Chance" Updates

- Chris presented an update on the Network project, noting that the new security cameras are active, roughly 110 new cables were installed, and that the team is looking at how to recycle the old cables that were removed.

Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 7:47 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Furstenau

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Secretary