

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

February 19, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

Members present: Matt McMerty (President), Colleen Peterson, Mitch Becker, Phil Murdoff, Barb Pfeifer, Dean Natwick, Effie Carr, Lucas Teigen, Denise Wetzel, Julie Leer, Pastor Mark Narum, and Pastor Martha HarriSon

Members absent: Bob Baumann

President McMerty called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Devotions were given by Barb Pfeifer.

Sympathy card will be sent to Brent Winkelman after the death of his mother.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Barb Pfeifer and seconded by Colleen Peterson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda:

It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Mitch Becker to remove the January Council Minutes from the Consent Agenda for purposes of correcting the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting in those minutes before considering approving them. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lucas Teigen and seconded by Effie Carr to accept the Consent Agenda as amended (to not include the January Council Minutes). Motion carried.

Approval of January Council minutes: It was noted the January Council Minutes incorrectly identified the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting as January 22, 2026, rather than February 22, 2026. It was moved by Mitch Becker and seconded by Barb Pfeifer to approve the December Council Minutes with the corrected 2026 Annual Meeting date. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Denise Wetzel presented the Financial Report. See Attachment A. It was moved by Phil Murdoff and seconded by Julie Leer to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Dwelling in the World: Council members discussed the questions: “Where do you find hope?” and “How do we ‘be hope’ in the congregation?”

Members offered the following answers to the first question: Watching US Olympians compete in the 2026 Winter Olympics; seeing the volunteers who step up to help no matter what’s being asked; in the commercials shown on TV that talk about Jesus; in Nate Bargatze’s (and others’ like his) clean and family friendly comedy; in the statistics reporting an increase in Bible sales in 2025; in increased dialog; in consistent increased church attendance (even on a holiday weekend); in invitations to baptism; and in hearing church is loud!

Members offered the following answers to the second question: examples of Trinity members who welcome and greet any and all visitors and newcomers; point out hope where we see it; meet people where they are; and treat people with humanity.

Old Business:

Personnel Policy update:

Identified and confirmed new items to be added to the policy.

Lighting System update:

The lighting project has been paused by the contractor, but the contractor will be completing the work.

250th Anniversary of US Independence celebration:

We will seek to establish a volunteer committee to help put together the details for this celebration.

Windfall Gifts Policy:

The Windfall Gifts Policy has been distributed to Council for review.

Annual Meeting:

Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (between services as requested during last year's annual meeting).

Agenda was finalized, and set-up and hosting sign-up were reviewed.

New Business:

Easter Special Offering:

Council discussed the Easter Special Offering. It was moved by Barb Pfeifer and seconded by Mitch Becker that the Easter Special Offering recipient be the Welcome House. Motion carried.

Palm Sunday Breakfast:

Palm Sunday is March 29, 2026. Prep work for breakfast will be done on Saturday, March 28, 2026. We will need volunteers for prep on Saturday and for cooking, serving and cleaning up on Palm Sunday. (Council members, watch for a sign-up sheet!) Palm Sunday breakfast will be served between 9 and 10:30. (I hear there's an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30, too!)

Trust Grants:

The following trust grant requests were discussed:

--Request for \$975 to purchase 3 new wireless clip-on microphones.

--Request for \$400 to purchase high chairs and booster seats for the fellowship hall to accommodate families with smaller children.

It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Effie Carr to recommend the grant requests to Trust. Motion carried.

Thank yous:

Colleen Peterson thanked Effie Carr for joining council to fill an unexpired term. Colleen Peterson thanked outgoing President Matt McMerty for his service to Trinity. (Matt and Effie, we'll miss both of you!)

Next meeting is Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for March: Pastor Mark.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary