

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 21, 2026**

**In attendance:** Pr Kristen Larsen-Schmidt, Laura Barlament, Mike Kunka, Jeff Krambeer, Brian Caton, Sara Hopkins, Anne Clausen, Chris Johnson, Karin Martin-Hiner

**Preparing Our Hearts and Minds to Serve**

- Opening Prayer and Devotional - Mike Kunka

Next month's devotional leader: Anne Clausen

- As we deliberate, let us affirm our congregation's commitment to pursue racial justice, advocate for migrant families, and support the LGBTQIA community.
- Is there anything on the consent agenda that should be moved to the discussion agenda? If not, is there a motion to approve the whole agenda? Laura moved to shift the reception of committee reports to the Discussion Agenda; Sara seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mike moves to approve the amended agenda; Karin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of [March 2026 Council Meeting Minutes](#)
2. Reception of [Committee Reports](#) (individual reports linked below)

**Discussion Agenda**

1. If a committee report arrives after the deadline (the Thursday before the Council meeting), Gabby should notify Laura, so that she may notify the Council. Karin moved to receive the April committee reports; Chris seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
2. [Pastor's Report](#): Pastor Kristen.
  - a. Thoughts and feedback about Lent and Holy Week. What went well, and what might we do differently next year? The Council agrees that most of it went well. Wednesday nights and education worked. Worship Committee wondered if we relied too much on children, and if they felt pressured to contribute or perform. Some reports that the kids enjoyed it. Community stories were a way to get to know people and deliver a message. Three services on Wednesday of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday maybe there was some congestion. Pr Kristen was hoping there would be more crossover from the first communion event. How to make the first communion feel special when children have been communing for a very long time? It was new to have treats after Easter Vigil, and to have kids do all the decorating. Preparing for Holy Week was a difficult balance between honoring the

congregation's traditions and finding freedom to move and lead. *Sleeping with Bread*: burnout comes not from doing too much but from doing things you don't want to do. Pr Kristen asked the Worship Committee about what is important (to the congregation) about the Vigil. Q: Were there other parts of Holy Week that made sense to you and worked? A: Yes, many.

- b. A brief preview of summer Dinnerchurch plans: three nights, like LIFT but with dinner. And yard games.
3. Building matters
  - a. Lighting update: this should be on the F&G committee report.
  - b. [Building Safety Policy](#): Feedback on the new door locking policy/practice? Pr Kristen has heard little feedback on the safety policy. It has probably erred on the side of "opened." Next steps with safety and welcome? This will be tabled until May.
4. Financial matters
  - a. Reception of [April Treasurer's report](#). We should keep an eye on AMMPARO line for next year's budget, as we see how demand for these services changes over time.
  - b. Shepherd Society request for church funding, revisited. Jon Lund found that the organization was reliable and reputable. In Stewardship Committee, they said they really did not need their budget; it could be reallocated to Shepherd Society. The Stewardship budget line is for paying for mailers. If we gave to the Shepherd Society, the best option would be to pull from carryover funds. Can we wait a few more months (e.g. July 1) before deciding we would make this contribution, to ensure that we are able to cover it? We could make it a children's collection beneficiary, and supplement it from another source. We don't have to give the amount they suggested. Last year we gave \$2000, for a one-time gift. We don't have to reproduce what we did last year. Chris moved to designate the September children's offering for the Shepherd Society; Anne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Ad hoc finance committee update: Chris Johnson. We can make an ad hoc committee (without needing to amend the constitution). This committee would do the necessary legwork to set up a permanent committee next fiscal year. Chris moved to create such an ad hoc finance committee; Sara seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Strategic planning and potential council retreat. Last month, we discussed the possibility of a retreat to build a strategic plan, including setting up a plan for updating the constitution. What should the retreat accomplish: time set aside to think deeply and broadly about the mission of the congregation for the next five or ten years. We should plan for 14 June, 3:30-7:00, Whalen Cabin.
6. Children's Offering designation for May (and future?)

### **Additional Items**

- Announcements, thank yous, and appreciation time. Thanks to Pr Kristen for all her work. Tomorrow Pr Kristen is at Luther to give the Chapel talk. Blessing of the garden this Sunday. A portion will be dedicated to indigenous plants. A blessing of graduates on May 10.
- May Newsletter Deadline: April 25
- Committee reports/summaries due to office on Second Monday of the month
- Agenda with committee links emailed to Council by second Thursday of the month; please read prior to the Council meeting.
- Next Council meeting, May 19, 2026, 6:30-8 p.m.

Closing prayers

### ***For Review: Recurring Work of the Body – Committee, Pastor, and Officer Reports***

- [Education Committee](#)
- [Outreach and Hospitality Committee](#)
- [Facilities and Grounds Committee](#)
- [Stewardship Committee](#)
- [Worship and Music](#)
- [Pastoral Report](#)
- [Gabby's Report to Council](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Caton, Secretary