

St. John's Congregational Assembly

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

7:00pm Walker Hall

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| I. | Welcome, Opening and Agenda Review | Mark Bogh |
| II. | Opening Prayer and Devotion | Pastor Tim |
| III. | Review and Adoption of Minutes | Irene Frazier |
| IV. | Elections | Tony Harnack |
| V. | Senior Pastor Report | Pastor Tim |
| VI. | Executive Pastor Report | Pastor Trevor |
| VII. | Principal Report | Jake Hollatz |
| VIII. | Executive Director of Strategic Services Report | Betsy Kunau |
| IX. | 2026 – 2027 Budget Presentation | Boe Boezinger |
| X. | Real Estate Resolution | Boe Boezinger |
| XI. | Resolution to Call Associate Pastor | Darryl Wold |
| XII. | Resolution to Call Commissioned Minister | Jeremy Nelson |
| XIII. | Report on Election Results | Tony Harnack |
| XIV. | Adjourn and Closing Prayer | Pastor Trevor |

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

May 13, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

The meeting was preceded by a time of fellowship in the Courtyard, at which pictures and drawings of the Building A Project were on display for viewing.

The meeting opened with the group singing hymns, led by the Director of Contemporary Worship, Stephan Nosrat.

Congregational President Mark Bogh welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself as President of the congregation and introduced members of the Trustees who were sitting together in the front of the Sanctuary. He invited each to stand as their name was mentioned, after which the assembly thanked them with applause. The President stated the Trustees meet once a month at 6:30 a.m. to work on the business of the Church. They are committed to this organization, committed to this Church and committed to the Lord. He invited the membership to contact them if there is something the Trustees might want or need to know, since they want to hear it.

He read a passage from Proverbs, “where there is no vision, people perish, but happy is he who keeps the law.” He explained the idea of this verse is that it is important that we have guiding principles and we adhere to those. A long time ago, thirteen families, who had farms in Orange, mortgaged those farms to build this Sanctuary. They risked their livelihood to build a house of the Lord. They had vision. He is focused on being the guy who continues with the vision started 143 years ago, and it is very important to him. The Trustees are committed to this vision and have adopted a Master Plan that will continue it.

He invited Pastor Tim to offer a devotion as the meeting began.

Opening Devotion and Prayer

Pastor Tim Klinkenberg thanked the President, greeted the members and offered an opening prayer. He mentioned the Book of Revelation 21:1-8 scripture read at the worship services on Sunday. He read the passage and commented that sometimes it is difficult when we are too close to a situation. There is a time to stop and reflect and think through a little bit. We are moving into the month of June with graduations and many weddings and other events that occur our lives. These are opportunities for us to reflect on the blessings of Jesus.

We are God's people. We are not a collection of drones. We are His people and He is here with us. He is here to help us plan and vision. He is here for us when we don't have things together. He is with us when there is pain and He offers healing. God's plan is to be here. What is He doing? He is renewing, He is making all things new. We are in a Sanctuary tonight that is over 111 years old and He is making things new and renewing St. John's. He is transforming our culture and moving things away from a transactional congregation. We are becoming a congregation of self-sacrifice, a place for people in our community of Orange. We are welcoming young people to our congregation. We are on a front movement of culture change. These new people are hungry for Jesus. God is here. He is renewing. He tells John He started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve and He will lead us to the end to eternal life with Jesus.

The reins of St. John's are held firm by the Trustees and the Elders. We are on a pathway

from beginning to the end. We don't know when, but we know where we will end up. It will be a blessing to be where tears are washed away from our eyes.

Tonight, between this time and the end, there is work to be done, work that has eternal rewards. It is a time of seeing where He would have us go and what He would have us do. Through the Elders of the congregation, He leads us to healing and restoration. Pastor Tim closed in prayer.

Invitation to Sign Constitution

Irene Frazier, Congregational Secretary, invited all confirmed members, over the age of 18, who have not yet signed the Constitution, to come forward and sign in order to be able to participate in the issues to be presented at the meeting this evening.

Minutes

Irene Frazier mentioned that copies of the Minutes of the Congregational Assembly of May 21, 2024, have been available in the Courtyard and are available at the meeting tonight. She asked if there were any changes or corrections, and there were none. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the meeting and an oral vote reflected that the Minutes were approved.

Elections

In the absence of Vice President Tony Harnack, the President explained that we fulfilled the obligations set forth in the Bylaws regarding the announcements for this meeting and for the election of officers and leaders. He introduced each candidate for the open positions and read the bio provided for each, copies of which were made available prior to the meeting and at the meeting. He invited each candidate to stand as he mentioned their names. He indicated that each person nominated has prayerfully considered having their names placed on the ballot. In addition, he announced and asked to stand the members who were appointed as Council Chairmen, which requires a ratification on the ballot.

Darryl Wold made “a motion that, because there is one candidate nominated for each open position, that the group would vote by acclamation.” The motion was seconded and, by an oral vote, it was determined it was approved unanimously

Vice President – Tony Harnack (2nd term)

Treasurer – Boe Boezinger (1st term)

Members of Council of Elders -

Jason Johnson (2nd term)

Matt Potthoff (1st term)

Jim Ross (1st term)

Steve Theiss (1st term)

Members of the Council of Schools –

David Kim (2nd term)

Jaclyn Spangler (1st term)

The following people were ratified as Chairman of respective Councils:

Council of Worship & Music – Tim Kryger

Council of Evangelism, Outreach & Missions – Dale Newcom

Council of Youth & Young Adults – Jeremy Nelson

Council of Families with Children – Sandy Mercier

Council of Prayer and Congregational Care – Ryan Gillette

Council of Adult Ministries – Jesse Wobrock

Council of Business Administration – Tim Virus

The President thanked each person who allowed their name to be placed in nomination and congratulated them on their election to serve St. John's and our ministry.

Senior Pastor's Report

Pastor Tim began with a report on our ministry, commenting on changes that have occurred over the years. Using the screen as he spoke, he highlighted some areas:

- **Culture Turning Toward Faith**

He commented on the changes in the culture of our community and mentioned three young men who came into the office to discuss scripture and he spent considerable time with them. People are turning back to conservative Christianity and Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life. We are in a unique place to make that happen.

- **St. John's Getting Younger**

As new staff is added, this has changed the average age of our staff. Although some members of our staff are getting older and grayer, giving it a nice balance.

- **Staff Operating with High Morale**

The staff works together in leadership of the congregation. We have brought a culture piece into our lay leadership and that has been vital in ministry rising up.

- **Little Staff Turnover**

We have had very little staff turnover this year. That is especially true in our School where our staff is hired and inducted into the culture of St. John's. We hired only two teachers for next year.

- **Unity of Spirit and Bond of Peace**

He mentioned the Courtyard where we have focused on hospitality with good coffee and good donuts and good conversation. People are coming together, greeting one another, caring for each other. It is one place where the unity of the Spirit is very active.

- **Ministries Focused and Moving Forward**

Pastor Tim mentioned our leaders have recorded videos for this meeting, talking about their respective ministries and how they are growing and changing

- **Vicar Micah Raebel** began by thanking the congregation for prayers for his wife and daughters. He has only one year left in Seminary and he appreciates all of the support for him and his family during the past three years. He gave thanks to the Lord for Jen Zieger who led Congregational Care before her move to North Carolina with her husband, Dean. Micah and Jen worked together when there was a loss of a loved one. Her ministry supported and helped families this past year as they prepared for a funeral. They developed care teams for people who are ill or homebound, for families after the death of a loved one, and for spiritual care. Jessica Holt has now stepped into Jen's role. He thanked Joanne Roeder for her help with funeral receptions. He invited anyone who would like to be a part of that ministry to contact him. The Friendship Quilters have made over 148 quilts this past year for people in crisis or need. The Grief Share Group has walked with 36 individuals this past year to our membership and community. He also thanked Dale and Bev Newcom for their work with Divorce Care Support Group, helping over 15 individuals. The Care Ministry team of 28 volunteers, coordinated by Alicia Bogardus, has made 229 visits to our members and community. He thanked everyone who has helped by writing a card, making a quilt, visiting someone, praying for someone – they are integral part of this ministry. He thanked everyone for bringing the restorative hope of Jesus to so many people.

- **Alex Guebert, Director of Worship & Music**, followed and talked about the planning of worship services where the worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, occurs. He

mentioned the Choir that sings in Sunday morning services each week. The Bell Choir which plays and enhances the services. He mentioned Stephan Nosrat, who leads the contemporary services in Walker Hall so well. Our Conservatory of the Arts has 110 students each week and they are looking to build up music from our School. He is thankful for the congregation and the volunteers who help to support the Worship & Music Ministry. There are many who do many tasks, especially Audrey Mink, our School Music Director. We have 130 patrons who give money to support our Concerts. He stated that he is truly grateful for each person. We love to tell the story because it is true.

- **Dr. Jake Hollatz, School Principal**, commented on the 142 years the School has been in the City of Orange. He mentioned Proverbs 3:15, "Trust in the Lord always," the theme for the School this year. St. John's is the largest Lutheran School in the nation, with 710 students in K-8 and 120 in Preschool. Our student retention is 97%, reflecting that our students are with us year after year. Our faculty is committed to teaching God's Word. That makes a huge difference in our classrooms. Our recent Gala raised \$250,000 for school programs. He commented on the Apple Distinguished School status received by St. John's. Challenges occur when our beliefs are sometimes in conflict with culture. He asked everyone to join in prayer for the School, that God would continue to raise up strong Christians. He thanked everyone for their continued support of the School and School families. He is deeply grateful to the congregation, staff and Pastors.
- **Betsy Kunau, Executive Director of Strategic Services** commended her team, stating that they are everywhere and nowhere at once. They are constantly behind the scenes ensuring that all of our resources are stewarded well, the ministry of St. John's runs smoothly and our people are kept safe. Each member of the staff is a vital part of the ministry. She has the rewarding perspective of seeing our campus used to 98% of our capacity, which means that 7 days a week, almost 24 hours a day, you will find them on campus. It's an active and thriving place to be. Their team onboarded and supported nearly 140 staff members this year, from Senior Pastor to Sunday worship leaders to faculty and school age care workers. She thanked the congregation for their generosity in giving to the Church and thanked everyone for their generosity. Their team receives the offerings and processes them. The offering information is included each Sunday in the bulletin. This is done so our members can see where we stand as it relates to our Budget. We have members who have included St. John's in their Estate plan, which brings a warm feeling to her heart as they bless St. John's. She loves her job and loves her team and feels blessed to serve such an amazing community.
- **Jim Meyer** mentioned the members of his team, Irma Bates, Sarah Morner, Payton Walter and Tori Carter. Last year, they were able to define many programs within Family Ministries. Their goal is to teach the children stories of the Bible, both in Sunday School and other events and activities. He mentioned the many opportunities to teach and guide our young people in their faith journeys. The Leadership program in Middle School helps the students grow in faith, as does the Wednesday night program. The High School program meets on Sunday nights under the leadership of Sarah Morner, who is also working with Young Adults who gather on Thursday nights for Bible Study. Fifty confirmands will be confirmed on May 18. We anticipate 500 kids in VBS in June. A large group is going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.
- **Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom** introduced Erica Berlen, who is the Missions & Outreach Coordinator. They more have been adding visits of parents whose children are in Foster care and who are trying to reunify with their kids. They meet in our Cornerstone to spend time together and begin the path to reuniting. Four families have been reunited this year from this program. He thanked Mary Salgado who leads the Foster Care Ministry. Care

Givers Day Off is a once-a-month event to help and support Foster families. We continue to support Graceworks in Kenya, led by Dr. Susan Njemanze. We are able to bring students from her program to attend CUI. There is a large team going to Mexico to build communities. Teaching Church on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. is going well and they are already working on the study for the Fall. Men's and Women's Ministries are active. Vulnerable Children Ministries has already hosted over 300 kids in homes of members of our congregation this past year. He appreciates members who opened their homes to bring in children, allowing their parents time to get their lives together, keeping their children out of Foster Care. He asked anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry to contact him.

Pastor Tim concluded the video by announcing that it will be on our YouTube site. He thanked everyone for their generosity in so many areas of our ministry.

2024-2025 Year End Financial Report

Treasurer Nick Villasenor greeted everyone and thanked them for the last five years as he has served as Congregational Treasurer. He appreciates being able to get to know so many people during this time.

He reported on the 2024-2025 Year-End Financial Report, which was shown on the screen:

Report Highlights

- Contributions were lower, but close to expected. There is another 7 weeks to make up the number.
- Tuition income for K-8 was on Budget, An area where we were a bit off, but able to rectify, is the number of families who have become members of St. John's.
- Financial assistance and Staff, Partner and multi-student family discounts were higher than expected
- Tuition for Preschool was below Budget – fewer students than expected
- Efficiencies – increase in program, but little increase to expenses for program

Highlights of Year-End Report – Non-Operating Funds

- Investments performed well
- Continued increase in designated giving – most notably to Missions & Outreach and Worship & Music.
- Two new Endowments started – Bibles and Vulnerable Children. Funds have been received to establish both
- School Endowment is currently at \$5.3M
- Year is ending at approximately \$260,000 to the negative, with almost two months to make up some of the difference. Budgeting for next year is being handled diligently to identify areas.

Budget 2025-2026

Nick reviewed the 2025-2026 Budget on the screen:

- Overall Budget increase of 3.4% over 2024-2025 Budget.
- Net salary and benefit increase of 3%
- Offering Income set as same as 2024-2025 budgeted amount
- Tuition rate increase average of 6%
 - 720 K-8 students
 - 115 preschool students

- Rental income increase – 5 houses instead of 3
- Four new positions – Transitional Kindergarten Teacher and Aide, Elementary Counselor, Prayer & Care Ministry Coordinator
- Increased Tuition Assistance Budget

The Financial Year 2025-2026 Summary: \$13,734,500

Projects & Initiatives 2025-2026

The Treasurer explained the Business Administration Council annually reviews our campus and determines areas to be addressed. He presented the Projects and Initiatives for the next fiscal year:

Maintenance and Replacements

Ongoing HVAC: Offices, Classrooms & Meeting Spaces

Landscaping

Playground Repair

Improvements and Initiatives

Fire, Smoke and Light Safety Improvements

Accessibility improvements

Keyless Entry – Phase II (classroom & meeting spaces)

Upgrade to A/V in Great Room and Auditorium

Special Projects

Campus Strategic Planning

Sanctuary Roof Initial Steps

Total Program \$1,265,000

Funding through wise fiscal stewardship of Trustee Restricted amounts:

Special gifts and allocations from the General Fund (Maintenance & Legacy Funds)

Program is based on project or initiative amounts, not annual expenditures

Nick stated that funds for these projects are not from the Budget. They are coming from the Trustees' Restricted Funds. This allows us to spend money, based on the Trustees' reserve and gifts from families. It requires two Trustee meetings before any money is authorized.

The President thanked the Treasurer for the report. He requested approval of the 2025-2026 Operational Budget and Budget and Projects & Initiatives for 2025-2026. In response to a question, Pastor Tim explained this is a Budget based upon our historical numbers, based on the past 65 years. Our offering fluctuates each year, based on the ebb and flow of life. There are always changes when large givers move away and we are very prudent with our expenses during those times. Mark explained that we spend a lot of money at the beginning of each school year to prepare for the year and that levels out as the year moves forward.

A motion was made “to approve and accept the 2025-2026 Budget of \$1,374,500.” It was seconded. The President asked if there were any questions and there were none. He called for a vote, which reflected the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made “to approve and accept the Projects and Initiatives for 2025-2026 in the amount of \$1,265,000.” It was seconded and approved unanimously.

The President thanked everyone and stated the staff has been working on this for the past several months. He introduced our new Financial Manager, Jon Baermann.

Building A Project

The President stated the Building A Project was approved at the Congregational Assembly

in 2024. At that time, we talked about beginning the structural improvements. An architect, who had some history with the City of Orange, was hired and we are on track. He reported on some areas of proposed work:

- The structure of the six classrooms is sound and there is no need for them to be removed.
- Windows in each classroom will be designed so that, when opened, a ladder will fall out.
- Walls separating the classrooms and hallways will have Kevlar-like shields nailed to the walls that will withstand 9mm gunshots.
- A mezzanine will be added over the center of the building that will add more square footage for the School
- The entrances in the rear of the building will be changed to add a handicapped ramp parallel to the building and the existing ramps will be reconfigured as shorter steps.
- Instead of hiring a project manager for the project, at a cost of \$250,000 to \$350,000, a manager has been hired to be on staff. He began last month and has been actively soliciting bids to determine the cost of the Project.
- One of the men in the recent Leadership Class has been doing a quality control report for us, which includes electrical and HVAC. The next step includes building and safety.
- The outside of Building A will not be changed. The roof on the center of the building will be raised approximately 2-1/2 feet to accommodate the library. This is the only visible change.
- Fundraising will begin in June.

He commented the new building will be phenomenal and asked if there are any questions and there were none.

Resolution to Purchase Real Property

The President explained this Resolution has been presented to the congregation for the past few years. It authorizes the Trustees to purchase real property.

He invited in-coming Treasurer Boe Boezinger to present the Resolution to authorize the Trustees to purchase real property. Boe thanked the President and read the Resolution.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Council of Trustees has advised the congregation that St. John's has a need for additional real property in the vicinity of St. John's campus to serve the needs of the congregation for additional physical space, such as for ministry offices, additional administrative office space, staff housing and other ministry needs; and

WHEREAS, the availability of suitable real estate in the vicinity of St. John's campus is limited, and when properties are listed for sale, the Trustees' experience has shown that the property immediately attracts a number of offers and quickly sells; and

WHEREAS, St. John's Constitution and Bylaws require that the purchase of real property be approved by a Congregational Assembly, and that advance notice be given to the congregation for a valid Congregational Assembly to meet; and

WHEREAS, if the congregation waits until a suitable property is first listed for sale before calling a Congregational Assembly to authorize an offer, those procedural requirements effectively preclude St. John's from acting quickly enough to make an offer on real property, before it is sold to another buyer; and

WHEREAS, the congregation could instead act in advance and authorize the Council of Trustees to make an offer when a suitable parcel becomes available, without having to wait for further action by a Congregational Assembly, and thereby enable the Trustees to act

quickly to make an offer, engage in negotiations if necessary, and consummate a transaction;
NOW, THEREFORE, this Congregational Assembly hereby adopts the following

RESOLUTION

The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange, meeting in the Annual Congregational Assembly on May 13, 2025, hereby resolves as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Council of Trustees, in its capacity as the legal representative of the congregation, is authorized to make a binding offer to purchase real property in the vicinity of St. John's campus, subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Trustees determine that the particular piece of real property would serve a ministry purpose of St. John's;

(2) The Trustees determine that the price to be offered is appropriate in the existing market conditions, and within the financial means of St. John's; and

(3) The Resolution by the Trustees to make a binding offer is approved by a unanimous vote of the Trustees at a duly-called meeting, with a majority of Trustees participating;

AND FURTHER, if the offer is accepted, the Council of Trustees is authorized to execute the appropriate documents to consummate the purchase of the property pursuant to that offer, by the signatures of any two of the congregation's officers; and

FURTHER, the Council of Trustees is authorized to negotiate appropriate terms for the financing of the purchase, and to execute documents necessary to secure that financing; and

FURTHER, the Trustees are directed to promptly give notice to the congregation when an offer they have made is accepted by the seller and contingencies have been satisfied, and include the location of the property, the terms of the accepted offer, and the terms of financing, if any, and

FURTHER, this authorization will automatically expire at the adjournment of the next Annual Congregational Assembly unless it is renewed by the congregation at that meeting.

The President stated that this Resolution is brought forward again this year. He asked for a motion to approve the motion.

A motion was made "to approve the Resolution to Purchase Real Property," which was seconded. He invited questions or comments and a question was asked about where properties that might be considered are located and the President responded that they would be near St. John's and within our area. We would like to purchase as many properties that are adjacent to our campus as possible. This would enable us to provide housing at a reasonable cost to our teachers. **The motion was called for a vote and an oral vote indicated the motion was approved unanimously.**

Resolution for Congregational Call to Commissioned Ministers

The President mentioned that, each year, we present a Resolution to extend Calls to Commissioned Ministers, as set forth in our Bylaws.

In-coming Treasurer Boe Boezinger presented the Resolution.

RESOLUTION FOR CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

WHEREAS, the mission of St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange is to deliver the restorative hope of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, the Lord has blessed St. John's Lutheran Church with the people, facilities and resources necessary to accomplish this mission; and

WHEREAS, the Lord has blessed St. John's with staff members who are committed to the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church and working to accomplish its goals and purpose; and

WHEREAS, our Constitution and Bylaws provide uniformity of our Called workers by Divinely Calling them by the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Trustees and, by extension the Council of Schools, is to lead the congregational ministry decently and in good order; and

WHEREAS, our commissioned employees have successfully completed all educational requirements to serve in a Called ministry capacity and completed all necessary requirements of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to receive a Divine Call.

WHEREAS, the Council of Schools has developed and executed a comprehensive selection process for teacher candidates, including prayerful consideration of all candidate education and experience, information derived from application, phone screening, multiple interviews and reference checks,

WHEREAS, the Constitution directs the congregation to Call our Commissioned Ministers;

THEREFORE, be it Resolved, that the Congregational Assembly formally issue Divine Calls to the following teachers who have served St. John's Lutheran School in the past year:

Kristin Fink Debbie Scott

RESOLVED, that St. John's give thanks for all our faculty and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to work together in peace to achieve our mission and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, each year, the Trustees bring forward the names of our new Commissioned Ministers to be Divinely Called by the congregation.

The President stated the Resolution has been read and he invited a motion to approve.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution for Congregational Call to Commissioned Ministers. It was seconded and an oral vote indicated the motion was approved unanimously

Resolution to Thank the Former Presidents of the Pacific Southwest District

Pastor Tim began by stating that our congregation is part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Our congregation in Orange County is in the Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS. Together with other Lutheran Churches, we have an opportunity to speak with one voice to honor two past Presidents of the PSD who have been part of our congregation:

Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer married Arlene Klaustermeyer, a child of St. John's who has many family members here, and they worshipped here often.

Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau and his wife, Linda, were members of St. John's and he preached at St. John's on many occasions.

To honor both of them, we would join with other Lutheran Churches to present this Resolution to the LCMS Convention in June. Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom and Betsy Kunau will be attending as the Delegates from St. John's and will present this Resolution, which he read:

Resolution to Thank the Former Presidents

**of the Pacific Southwest District and to Confer the Title of
“President Emeritus of the Pacific Southwest District”**

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Larry Stoterau and the Reverend Dr. Loren Kramer provided our District with faithful pastoral leadership as District President for eighteen years and fifteen years, respectively; and

WHEREAS, these former District Presidents provided invaluable pastoral leadership for the congregations and professional church workers of the District, in visitations and preaching in many congregations for special occasions, and in their presence and participation in many District functions; and

WHEREAS, these District Presidents retired prior to the installation of our current District President; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that we thank the Reverend Dr. Larry Stoterau and the Reverend Dr. Loren Kramer for their faithful pastoral leadership; and be it further

RESOLVED: that this convention confer upon the Reverend Dr. Larry Stoterau and the Reverend Dr. Loren Kramer the title of “President Emeritus of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;” and be it further

RESOLVED: That we give thanks to God for His servants, the Reverend Dr. Larry Stoterau and the Reverend Dr. Loren Kramer; and be it finally

RESOLVED: That following the adoption of this Resolution, the assembly will rise and sing the last verse of the hymn, “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” (LSB#563):“

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.”

A motion was made “to approve this Resolution to Resolution to Thank the Former Presidents of the Pacific Southwest District and to Confer the Title of ‘President Emeritus of the Pacific Southwest District.’” It was seconded and approved unanimously.

The assembly rose to sing together the last verse of the hymn included in the Resolution.

Resolution to Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity

Pastor Tim announced that attorney Darryl Wold wrote the Resolution being presented now. He explained that a group of people gathered together and attended Chapel at CUI where they made a determination that the chapel service was not Lutheran. Pastor Tim stated that, we are saying that, based on Scripture and Lutheran Confession that is used to evaluate ministry, it is a Lutheran service.

This Resolution is proposed in response to a movement from some members of our Synod to impose standards or requirements beyond those in our Lutheran Confession on our institutions, including our universities and churches. By this Resolution, we state our position, in advance of our approaching District Convention, where we expect more discussion on this issue.

He presented and read the Resolution:

Resolution to Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod states in Article II of its Constitution:

Article II Confession

The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;**
- 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed). The Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism; therefore, be it**

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined solely by the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that adds moral, ethical, cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran Confession, but first and foremost according to Article IV of the Augsburg Confession "Our churches teach people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or words. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4)" and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that uses traditions and rites as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to Article VII of the Augsburg Confession: "The Church is the congregation of the saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church, it is enough to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions, that is, rites of ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same everywhere. As Paul says, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:5-6); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that venerates Martin Luther or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the Large Catechism: "This we ask {Thy Kingdom Come}, both in order that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition and followers among other people and advance with power through the world. So we pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the kingdom of grace and become partakers of salvation . . ." {LC, The Lord's Prayer, 52}; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that limits Christian freedom in matters of organization and practices, but according to Article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession: "It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, "do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the gospel to be preserved, namely that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of worship devised by people . . . It is proper to keep such ordinance just so long as consciences are not burdened

to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they are changed without offending others” (51, 52, 53), and according to Article X of the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God’s ordinances, but even placed above them.” (15); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the term ”Lutheran identity” be defined and affirmed as adherence to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that ”the churches will not condemn one another because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them” {FC SD X 31}, and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the Lutheran confession.

Pastor Tim explained that the Resolution is saying that a group of people cannot come in and implement their will and their tradition on another organization or entity, such as Orange Lutheran High School, Crean Lutheran High School, Concordia University or St. John’s or another Lutheran Church. He mentioned that approximately a dozen churches in our District are joining in this Resolution.

The President asked for a motion to approve this Resolution. **A motion was made to approve the Resolution to Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity. A second to the motion was made.** A question was asked about this being necessary at this time and Pastor Tim explained that a group came into CUI and said their service is not Lutheran. This Resolution will allow each organization and congregation to govern themselves according to the scriptures and governance. **The motion was called for a vote and an oral vote reflected the motion was approved unanimously and without dissent.**

St. John’s Cemetery Report

Chris Victoria, Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees and Member-at-Large of the Trustees, reported on the recent work completed at the Cemetery in preparation for the installation of six columbariums, approved at the May 2024 Congregational Assembly.

Bogh Construction has excavated the six designated locations, laid concrete pads and surrounded each with pavers. On each side of the roadway near the entrance, curbs were cut out and ramps were created for ADA access. Pavers were also laid, creating pathways from the roadway to the first columbarium on each side. In this way, people who may be in wheelchairs or who are not able to step up to the curb may visit the columbariums.

Chris announced the six units will arrive the last week in June. The delay is due to issues with the suppliers to Sunset Memorials, the firm constructing the columbariums. We are looking forward to the delivery. There was a question regarding any tariffs, since they are being manufactured in Canada, and Chris indicated the tariffs are scheduled to be delivered before the tariffs are imposed.

School Endowment Fund Committee

A report from the School Endowment Fund Committee was available with the packet of information at the meeting.

Cemetery Trustees

The St. John’s Cemetery Trustees provided a report regarding the financial status of the Endowment Fund, which was available with the packet of information at the meeting.

Adjournment

The President thanked everyone for being present this evening and doing the work of St. John's.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Closing Prayer

Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Willett, Recording Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange
Elections 2026 – 2027

POSITION	NOMINEE	TERM	VOTE
Council of Trustees			
2 Positions - Vote for Two			
Member at Large	Alicia Bogardus	1 st Term	
Member at Large	Nick Villasenor	1 st Term	
Council of Elders			
4 Positions - Vote for Four			
Chairman/Member of Trustees	Jon Krueger	1st Term	
Member	Tim Bristol	1 st Term	
Member	Ruben Martinez	1 st Term	
Member	Jordan Purrington	2 nd Term	
One member position to fill a 1 year unexpired term.			
Council of Schools			
2 Positions - Vote for Two			
Chairman/Member of Trustees	Kelly Densmore	1 st Term	
Member	Tanya Richards	1 st Term	
RATIFICATIONS OF APPOINTMENTS			RATIFICATION
Council of Worship & Music			
Chairman	Tim Kryger		
Council of Evangelism, Outreach & Missions			
Chairman	Dale Newcom		
Council of Youth & Young Adults			
Chairman	Jeremy Nelson		
Council of Families with Children			
Chairman	Sandy Mercier		
Council of Prayer and Congregational Care			
Chairman	Ryan Gillette		
Council of Adult Ministries			
Chairman			
Council of Business Administration			
Chairman	Tim Virus		

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ORANGE

REPORT OF THE CALL COMMITTEE CONCERNING A CALL FOR AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

A Call Committee having been organized to assess candidates for a call to serve St. John's in a new position as an Associate Pastor, and our vicar, Micah Raebel, having been nominated as a candidate for that position, and the Committee having assessed Micah's qualifications and suitability for a ministry at St. John's, the Committee reports as follows:

In summary, for the reasons described below, the Committee has found Micah both highly qualified and well suited for a call to serve St. John's as an Associate Pastor.

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis certified Micah as eligible to receive a first call to a pastoral position, during the Seminary's Call Day on April 28, and preliminarily assigned him to St. John's. We can now consider extending a call to Micah.

Under our Bylaws, and the practice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the function of a call committee is to assess the qualifications and suitability of a candidate for a call, and report its findings to the congregation, but not to explicitly make a recommendation to issue a call. That decision is left exclusively in the hands of the congregation, after prayers to be guided by our Lord in choosing the candidate to whom he would have us issue a call – thus, a “divine call”. In our case, that decision is exercised by the voting members of the congregation at a Congregational Assembly.

The Call Committee has consisted of Mark Bogh, president of the congregation, Ken Santini, chairman of the Council of Elders, and members Alicia Bogardus, Amy Neben, Matthew Potthoff, Steve Theiss, Emily Weingarh, and Darryl Wold, who has served as chairman of the committee. Pastor Tim Klinkenberg advised the committee in its deliberations.

After an initial meeting on April 15 to organize and plan its work, the Committee met again on April 21 to interview Micah and his wife Karissa. Our interviews included a lengthy and active examination of Micah's attitude toward the ministry and his commitment to that service, in addition to the attitudes of both Micah and Karissa toward being a part of St. John's and raising a family here. The committee also reviewed a job description for the position under consideration, and relevant biographical background information.

Following the interviews, the committee discussed the matter before it among themselves and with Pastor Klinkenberg, and unanimously concluded as follows:

The Call Committee found that Vicar Micah Raebel is professionally well qualified to receive a call from St. John's, in that:

- He will have the requisite education for service as a pastor, including a Master of Theology degree from Concordia University Irvine's Cross-Cultural Ministry Center he is expected to receive this month;
- He has received a General Pastoral Certification from The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, to be eligible for a First Call;
- His experience includes serving as Vicar at St. John's, and Interim Vacancy Ministry Associate, since September, 2021;
- At St. John's, he gained experience in preaching at our Sunday services and special services; in shepherding our Prayer and Care Ministry and doing home visits himself to comfort those homebound by age, by illness, or other reasons, and administering the sacraments to them; in teaching at our Sunday Teaching Church; in presiding at funerals; and in performing other duties that would be expected of a pastor;
- He gained his experience at St. John's under the tutelage of Pastor Tim Klinkenberg and Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom, who was his immediate supervisor;
- Prior to coming to St. John's he gained experience in serving as Director of Music and Worship Arts at two other Lutheran churches, in Arlington and in San Antonio, Texas, spanning a period of almost ten years;
- He strongly affirms his commitment to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

The Call Committee also found that Micah Raebel is personally well suited to receive a call from St. John's, in that:

- He is well known to many members of our congregation, having served as our vicar for almost five years while completing his studies for the ministry, and he in turn knows us well;
- During his time with us he has consistently exhibited the appropriate demeanor and personal characteristics for a pastor, including those that St. Paul described in his letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:2), advising that those appointed as pastors to oversee the churches should be "above reproach" and "sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable,

gentle, and able to teach” among other factors;

- He has the strong support and encouragement in ministry of his wife Karissa, who in the recent past has served St. John’s herself as our organist, and now serves in a professional position at Lutheran High School of Orange County; and
- Micah and Karissa both express their love for St. John’s and our members, their happiness with St. John’s and the Orange community as a place to live and raise their children, and, subject to a call from God to other service, their desire to continue with us for the indefinite future.

Respectfully submitted, for the Call Committee,

Darryl R. Wold, Chair
April 30, 2026

**Resolution for Congregational Call to Micah Raebel to
Associate Pastor
Annual Congregational Meeting May 19, 2026
St. John's Lutheran Church
Orange, California**

Whereas, our Lord calls us to a ministry of making disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age."

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange, California has a mission of delivering the restorative hope of Jesus; and

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church has been blessed with opportunities in our Prayer and Care Ministry and our outreach to our community; and

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church would be well served by a third ordained Pastor; and

Whereas, Vicar Micah Raebel has served faithfully with great distinction; and

Whereas, Vicar Micah Raebel has been certified by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO; and

Whereas, on April 28, 2026, at Concordia Seminary's Call Day, the Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod acting as the Board of Assignments, assigned Micah Raebel to St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, California;

Therefore be it Resolved, that St. John's Lutheran Church call Vicar Micah Raebel to serve as Associate Pastor, and

Be it further Resolved that St. John's give thanks to God for the many blessings God has given to our congregation; and

Be it finally Resolved that we together give glory to God for the calling of a new pastor and receive him as a gift from God.

**Resolution for Congregational Call to Payton Walter to
Commissioned Minister, Director of Youth Ministry
Annual Congregational Meeting May 19, 2026
St. John's Lutheran Church
Orange, California**

Whereas, our Lord calls us to a ministry of making disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always to the very end of the age;" and

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church of Orange, California has a mission of delivering the restorative hope of Jesus; and

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church has been blessed with opportunities in our Youth Ministry and our outreach to our families; and

Whereas, St. John's Lutheran Church would be well suited by a Director of Christian Education; and

Whereas, Miss Payton Walter has served faithfully with great distinction as Youth Director; and

Whereas, Miss Payton Walter has completed all required coursework to become a Director of Christian Education in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, Miss Payton Walter is eligible and certified for a call to a Lutheran Congregation as a DCE through the Placement Office at Concordia University in Irvine, CA; and

Therefore be it Resolved, that St. John's Lutheran Church request the Pacific Southwest District to call a candidate for placement to the position of the Director of Christian Education; and

Be it further Resolved that St. John's respectfully request that the Pacific Southwest District assign Miss Payton Walter as a Commissioned Minister, Director of Youth – DCE position; and

Be it further Resolved that St. John's give thanks to God for the many blessings God has given to our Congregation; and

Be it finally Resolved that we together give glory to God for the calling of a new Director of Youth and receive her as a gift from God.

May 19, 2026