



1515 N Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**August 19, 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Present

Yoshiko Anspach, Brenda Bocek, Bill Busovsky, Jason Fox, Julie Furstenau, Terry Hjelkrem, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Chris White

Absent

Larry Bagley, Joan Kuehn

Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:04 pm.

Devotions (Chris White)

Chris gave a devotion focusing on worry. He shared a personal experience about his apprehension before traveling recently with family members. He referenced Matthew 6:27, "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" and read surrounding verses that emphasize not worrying about tomorrow. Chris admits he was worried about giving this devotion but found that after discussions with his wife and unexpected inspirations, he was able to prepare something meaningful. He concludes by sharing how he handles worry by writing down concerns, saying a prayer, and then going to sleep.

Approval of Minutes

*****COUNCIL APPROVED THE JUNE MINUTES*****

Finance Committee Report (Brenda Bocek)

- Brenda reviewed the June and July financial statements, noting corrections made by Yoshiko including new ledger accounts to record expenses when they occur rather than when paid. She discussed the July financial statement, clarifying that the \$27,000 for the van purchase should be recorded as equity rather than income, making the actual loss for the month closer to \$45,000. Despite this, year-to-date income remains positive at approximately \$57,000, though she noted that prepaid income means the true financial position will be clearer by October. Brenda also mentioned that the Financial Review Committee will provide a report by September 16th. Additionally, Terry discussed exploring "Key Person Insurance" for the pastor, with potential costs around a couple hundred dollars monthly for a million-dollar policy.

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

Senior Pastor Report & Old Business

- Pastor Travis reported on a successful summer, including vacation time and a youth backpacking trip with 5 youth from the congregation. A large new member class of 31 people (13 families) will be joining the church over the next three weeks.
- Regarding the building campaign, based on feedback, Pastor Travis recommends Phase One should focus on expanding the narthex, adding an elevator/stairwell, and renovating the

main floor (including bathrooms), with a budget cap of \$5 million. The next steps for the building project would be to get congregational permission to build and authorize a 3-year capital campaign. Gary Bradley has been asked to chair the building committee to determine the scope and budget, and Tad Goodenbour has been asked to chair the capital campaign. Both have agreed to serve in these positions. The council had additional discussion about the scope and timing of the project, including the timeline for architectural drawings and budget concerns. Pastor Travis hopes that we can bring the project to the congregation for a vote at the congregational meetings in October. If approved, the capital campaign would begin with “behind the scenes” work at the end of the year, followed by a spring kick-off for pledge commitments, while simultaneously working on more detailed planning and cost estimates.

- Pastor Travis also reported on recent initiatives including a new podcast “Generation to Revelation” which is targeted towards addressing questions from those who have left the church. The initial episode has already had 53 downloads. We also have five members of the congregation who have been trained as downtown ambassador volunteers.

New Business

- The theme for this year’s stewardship campaign will be “Sow Generous.” Council discussed the budgeting timeline, and approved Pastor Travis’s request for a 2.5% cost of living raise for staff. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the October ministry gatherings.
- Nominees for church council are Stacy Gatto, Betsy Pimentel, Bruce Carlson, Lamar Parsons, Diane Millburn, and Chris Lieber.
- Chris White gave a summary of work on the church's network infrastructure project. The team has been working on a comprehensive upgrade that includes installing cables between floors, adding new Wi-Fi access points, implementing a network-attached server for file storage and backups, and installing a new camera system. Progress has been made with the basement completed and the ground floor over halfway finished, with the team aiming to complete the entire project by September, after which they plan to remove all the old cabling from the ceiling. Thanks to Chris, Yosh & Mike Anspach, Vincent Spazanit, Eric Wicks, and Ritchie Loflin for all their hard work on this project!

Reminders

- Next meeting is September 16, 2025, at 7:00pm. Deacon Joan will have the devotion.

Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 8:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Furstenau

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Secretary