



1515 N Cascade Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

**June 17, 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Present (via Zoom)**

Larry Bagley, Brenda Bocek, William Busovsky, Terry Hjelkrem, Joan Kuehn, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Chris White

**Absent**

Yoshiko Anspach, Jason Fox, Julie Furstenau

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:10ish pm.

**Devotions (Bill Busovsky)**

Graduates face unprecedented difficulties navigating life's challenges in today's landscape. Ecclesiastes 11:9 offers profound guidance, encouraging youth to embrace life's vibrancy while maintaining accountability. The verse emphasizes the delicate balance between enjoying youth and making responsible choices.

Young individuals should approach their journey with openness, understanding that failure isn't a dead end but a learning opportunity. Perseverance becomes key in overcoming obstacles. It's crucial to recognize that most people are willing to support those who demonstrate genuine effort and commitment.

Ultimately, maintaining hope and understanding that God is always with them, can provide comfort and motivation during transformative life stages.

**Approval of Minutes**

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED THE MAY MINUTES\*\*\***

**Finance Committee Report (Brenda Bocek)**

- Year-to-date, pledged offerings were over budget by \$51,000. April was expected to be a big month because it was Easter, but fell short, although May seemed to take up the slack. Some questions will need to be answered when Yoshi returns. One of the things to point out is we have a YTD net income loss for May of \$13,066.00 but our budget was projected to have a net income loss of \$36,000.00, so for the year, we're doing well.
- The Audit Committee will have their first meeting on Monday, June 23. Brenda will be attending that meeting just to see if they have any questions or if they need any direction but doesn't think they're going to need much guidance. She indicated to the committee members that we would really like the report at the beginning of September so we can incorporate it into the budget reports to be presented to the congregation.

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

**Old Business**

- Bill discussed our current trash service, which is Waste Management, for \$600/month. After exploring alternatives, Waste Connections proposed a competitive offer with identical service with the added benefit of weekly recycling for only \$190/month. However, an existing 11-month

contract with Waste Management complicates the decision. Waste Management countered by reducing their rate to \$280/month, contingent on signing a new 3-year contract. Notably, Waste Connections offers their service without a term commitment. To determine the most cost-effective solution, Yoshi will need to run the numbers to see which way makes more sense.

- Our Worker's Comp policy is currently being reviewed, with additional carriers such as Pinnacle Assurance being considered.
- Bill also discussed the new cargo van purchase. The CD matured on July 12, so the money is available to move ahead with the purchase.

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED \$50,000 IN FUNDS FOR CARGO VAN PURCHASE\*\*\***

- The Council acknowledged the presence of outdated council members Erik Hjelmstad, Cathie John, and Harry Mosco on the ENT account that needs to be removed.

**\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED REMOVING OUTDATED MEMBERS FROM ENT ACCOUNT\*\*\***

**Senior Pastor Report**

- Pastor Travis reported that he and Pastor Carrie's trip to the Synod Assembly went well.
- A brochure/survey has been put together for the Master Plan Reveal, which Pastor Travis will hand out to congregation members attending the meeting on Tuesday, June 24, to get a clearer idea on what area(s) should be included in Phase 1, and what financial commitments / feasibility may look like. Projects like this tend to be met with some trepidation and congregants may need time to "warm up" to the idea. Pastor Travis anticipates the project most likely would not break ground until sometime in 2027. There are also some maintenance things (like Roofing, HVAC) that could be included in a construction project / capital campaign.
- The Senior Staff has gotten a jump on planning for the Advent season so that preparation can be done before the busy fall season.

**New Business**

- The absence of having (2) Pastors distributing communion at the 9:30 service was discussed. Pastor Travis noted that his main priority was keeping the same (sermon) message consistent across all services and that logistically it would be hard to get back and forth between the 9:30 traditional service and 10:15 contemporary service in the limited timeframe.

**Reminders**

- The next meeting will be held on August 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm with devotion by Chris White.

**Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis @ 8:15ish pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Kiersten Lehmkuhl*

Kiersten Lehmkuhl  
Secretary Pro Tem