

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes
March 17, 2026

Present: Tracy Bockbrader, Karla Southworth, Naomi Palmquist, Pastor Christina Johnson, Kathy Blascyk, Paul Holm, and Abby Weix
Absent: Cari Terrio- Johnson

Meeting called to order by President Tracy at 6:05 pm
Dwellings - Blessings led by Karla

Motion made by Naomi and seconded by Paul to approve the council agenda. Motion was approved.

Motion made by Pastor Christina and seconded by Naomi to approve the minutes from the February Council Meeting. Motion was approved.

Constitutional Review was led by Tracy. We reviewed Page 13 of our Constitution, sections 12.01, 12.02 and 12.03. Council will be looking into expanding the requirements for voting membership by allowing service hours in lieu of or in conjunction with monetary contributions. This could happen possibly through changing the by-laws. Further discussion will be needed on this issue.

Reports:

Pastor's report- She has been working on the paperwork to apply for MN paid leave. Also included in Pastor's report is the schedule for that leave. Surgery for Pachia will be on April 17th.

Music and Worship- Discussion for our Holy Week schedule with the combined services with Our Savior's and The Presbyterian Church we do not have a service at Zion during Holy Week. Pastor Christina and Gretchen recommended that next year Zion will step back from these joint services and have Maundy Thursday service at the Presbyterian church and Good Friday service here at Zion. People have expressed they would like to have a chance to worship at Zion during Holy Week.

Office Report

Financial Report

Christian Education – New Wine has expressed a need for another shed. Someone is donating one from their property. More research is needed and Naomi will look at the shed that someone wants to donate. When we have more information, we will revisit this for more discussion and possible council approval.

Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Pastor Christina to approve the council reports. Motion was approved.

Old Business:

1. Laugh and Learn concerns following funeral. It was agreed upon to use the women's bathroom as an all-gender bathroom for funerals. Laugh and Learn agrees to this arrangement. It did work out at a recent funeral. The one problem was that the signage was not clear enough and we will be improving that. They did not use the suggestion to pick up the children at the East door but there was no traffic problem with the last funeral. It really will depend on the time of the

funeral. Pastor Christina will keep track of the time for the funeral and let the daycare know when the funeral is and if they need to have kids picked up the East Door.

2. Letter from accountant Mike Werhan- The Finance Committee have discussed this letter. There is an agreement by the committee and by the council to the increase of \$425.00 per month for their services

Motion was made by Naomi and seconded by Pastor Christina to sign Muckala and Werhan PLLC letter with the terms and services of their accounting firm for 2026. Motion was approved.

Treasurer will be rolling over a CD that is coming due soon for another 13 months.

We went over the list Karla had prepared. This is a list of items and accounts that the Treasurer is responsible for, things that the Treasurer and Finance Committee need to be aware of and some of the duties of the Treasurer.

3. Changes in Treasurer position is an ongoing discussion both with finance committee and the Council
4. Update on Pastor's Portico (health insurance). Zion will again pay Pastor Christina's health coverage and ½ of Pachia's. They were both covered under Pachia's plan but with the accident and upcoming surgery for Pachia they will go back to Portico's policy and Zion paying the premiums.
5. Directory update – So far, they have information from 50 families. They are struggling with getting pictures from everyone. They are also looking for pictures of the different events and programs here at Zion. When Tracy and Mary Beth have finished the initial directory, it will be turned over to the Office for upkeep and maintenance. After it is completed, it can be printed for those who cannot use the on-line directory.

New Business:

Dumpster for New Wine Coffeehouse. Motion was made by Naomi and seconded by Pastor Christina to have extra pickup or second dumpster delivered the weeks of Coffeehouse, whichever is less expensive. Motion was approved. Naomi will be checking on this.

A suggestion was given at the Finance Meeting and at the Council meeting that the Treasurer should not be a member of the Council. It needs to be a more permanent position and not a council member chosen from the council each February. One suggestion was to add the Treasurer as a member of the staff, with the Treasurer position up to 40 hours a month and at \$25.00 an hour. This would need a Congregational vote to make these changes. Finance Committee is looking at a job description as they and the council continue to look at this issue.

Next meeting is April 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Dwellings will be led by Abby

Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Naomi to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Closed with Lord's Prayer.