

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes
February 17, 2026

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

Meeting called to order by Naomi Palmquist at 6:08 pm
Pastor Christina led Dwellings with poem, Rough Transitions based on Rom 4:18- Hope

Motion made by Paul and seconded by Tracy to approve the agenda, Motion was approved.

Motion was made by Pastor Christina and seconded by Paul for council to approve membership at Zion for Abby Weix. Motion was approved.

Council Members Orientation was conducted. Folders were presented to all council members and materials were discussed. Also, there was a discussion of the Boundaries training zoom meeting some of the council members were able to attend.

Election of Executive Council officers.

Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Cari to elect Karla as Treasurer. Motion was approved. Motion was made by Karla and seconded by Naomi to elect Kathy as Secretary. Motion was approved. Motion was made by Karla and seconded by Cari to elect Naomi as Vice President. Motion was approved. Motion was made by Naomi and seconded by Karla to elect Tracy as President. Motion was approved. (Tracy then took over as President for rest of the meeting.)

Motion was made to approve the January Council Minutes with correction of respectfully spelled wrong by Naomi and seconded by Pastor Christina. Motion was approved.

Pastor's report as submitted with addition of the FMLA need and request for policy update. The council will form a sub-committee to update this policy and add to the current Leave Policy that was adopted by council January 2025. Committee will be Naomi, with Karla consulting on this and we will ask Mary Beth Peter and Peggy Limmer, who have been on the policy committee before. Naomi will contact Peggy and Mary Beth.

Paul Holm had video-taped Archie Chelseth's funeral and would be willing to do this for any funerals in the future when he is available.

Worship and Music Report – Noisy offerings will be better accounted for with a Quickbooks account set up for noisy offerings and a tracking sheet developed. Pastor Christina plans on having an ushers' meeting and at that meeting they will be instructed on the procedure to make sure the offering gets in the designated place in the office after the service.

Hunger and Justice Committee report

Finance Committee Report

Report from the accountant came too late for Karla and the council to look at before the meeting. Karla has been working on many of the different areas of finances here at Zion. The finance committee will be looking at the counter's tally sheet to try to make it more user friendly for the counters and all those involved in the bookkeeping of those monies. A meeting will be planned to meet with the counters to explain the changes on the tally sheet when that has been completed by Finance Committee. Motion was made by Naomi and seconded by Paul to designate Ash Wednesday, Lenten and Easter offering envelopes to ELCA World Hunger. Motion was approved. Motion was made by Pastor Christina and seconded by Naomi to approve all reports. Motion was approved.

Old Business:

Meatball/holiday dinners. Just a reminder that we need to schedule a meeting with the parties involved soon.

Congregational Voting Members. Cari and Kyle attended the Conference Meeting on February 15th. They will be attending the Synod Assembly as voting members from Zion.

Splitting the Youth restricted fund to create Faith in Life Scholarship fund was passed at last meeting.

Money from the rent for the holiday dinners was designated to go to the sound system at the January council meeting.

New Business:

Weather Cancellation Policy - Motion was made by Karla and seconded by Naomi to approve the weather cancellation policy with changes made by the council. Motion was approved. Decision making criteria will be windchill below minus 35 degrees, or MN Dot recommending no travel. Final decisions will be made by Pastor and Executive Committee of the Council. For Sunday Morning services decision will be made by 7:00 am and mid-week services or activities by 2:00 pm. Will use website, email, Facebook and WDIO. Tracy will check on how to post at the TV stations.

Zion received an invitation to attend Gustavus Adolphus Association of Congregations annual meeting. No one can attend.

Laugh and Learn concerns following a funeral.

We will work with Laugh and Learn daycare to address the concerns they raised. We do need to have more bathrooms available when we have a large crowd, usually this would be for funerals. A suggestion was that we could possibly rope off one of the downstairs bathrooms for the people attending the funeral or other events. We could use the downstairs women's bathroom for both men and women and the boy's bathroom to be used by the day care children. We could have signs posted and rope off the areas so boys' bathroom would not be used by people attending funeral etc. Also, parking was an issue, and a suggestion was made to have the day care use the east door on that day. They could let their parents know ahead of time to pick up the

children at the east door that day. This is a problem but happens very infrequently. Pastor Christina will work with the daycare to see if that will solve the problem. We will make signs to put in the downstairs bathroom to remind people to remember to flush the toilets. We will look for ways to post the bathroom signs the day an extra bathroom is needed along with roping off the day care area, so people do not walk through that area but go directly up the stairs.

Annual mission support checks from Zion have been sent out.

We received a letter from our accountant. Mike Werhan. It is an agreement to be signed between Zion and the accounting firm. The finance committee will meet to look at this before it is signed and see if there are questions that should be addressed. Also, we need to look at the Treasurer's role and the need to have a treasurer that stays on and is not elected every 3 years as a council member. It is a tremendous amount of work and does need certain skills. We will also be looking into compensation for the Treasurer.

March meeting will be on March 17th at 6:00 pm
March dwellings will be led by Karla

Motion was made by Pastor Christina and seconded by Naomi to adjourn the meeting.
Motion as approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.