

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2025 @ 5:30 PM
Fireside Room**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church is a caring community to empower all to
know Christ and make Christ known.*

Members Present:

Barbie Roessler (*President*), Gary Rudolf (*Past President*), Heather Krause (*Vice President*), Brennan Enstad (*Secretary*), Jennifer Svien (*Treasurer*), Marlin Spangrud, Caylin Steinberg, Michel Haugh, Kathy Kachelmyer, Dan Rickbeil, Pastor Melanie, Pastor Brittany

Members Absent: Karen Moritz, Hailey Bouldin

1. B Roessler called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

2. Devotions – Dan

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve an amended agenda was made by G. Rudolf and seconded by H. Krause. The motion carried. The December council meeting is scheduled for December 16, replacing the original date of December 17 listed in the agenda.

4. Approval of October Council Minutes

A motion to approve the October council minutes was made by D. Rickbeil and seconded by K. Kachelmyer. Motion passed.

5. Discussion and Approval of Treasurer's Report

October Financials

- Operating cash (in bank accounts) net of restricted funds equals \$99,591 on 10/31/2025 (42 days of expenses). We were in a similar financial position at this time last year; however, some sizable one-time gifts in later months improved our year-end results.
- Total Operating Income was \$58,193 which was \$14,414 less than monthly budget.
- Regular offering was below monthly budget by \$13,037
- Monthly expenses were \$74,270 which was \$2,721 under budget
- Total net income was a loss of \$12,577

We have a year-to-date net income loss of \$55,254.

We have consistently fallen short of our budgeted monthly operating income. To achieve the current budget, a 6% year-over-year increase in giving is required; however, contributions remain below last year's levels. We remain optimistic that giving will improve in the final months of the year, as is typically the case.

Operating Income Losses by Month: July -\$3,548, August -\$16,828, September -\$22,300, October -\$12,576

- Income vs. Budget: Off by \$65,535.
- Expenses: Under budget by \$11,949.

Monthly offerings have been trending below budget for several consecutive months. While we typically experience some fluctuation, recent results show a sustained shortfall of approximately \$10,000 per month.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by M. Spangrud, seconded by G. Rudolf. Motion carried.

6. Pastor's Reports

Pastor Melanie shared updates on the upcoming RIC straw poll that will be distributed to the congregation, as well as expressed overall satisfaction with the progress of the capital campaign.

She also reported that the YWCA has approached her regarding a potential T-Mobile grant and the creation of a community space within CTK. Additional details will be covered later in the agenda.

Pastor Melanie has been exploring individual health insurance options for CTK staff. After discussion, it was agreed that we need a clearer understanding of our budget position before making any decisions. Jen is currently working on next year's budget and will meet with Pastor Melanie next week to review compensation and benefits for CTK staff. The insurance discussion has been tabled until next month.

Pastor Brittany provided an update on the Confirmation curriculum. She noted that the two recent November events - Wednesday, November 19 concert and the Saturday, November 22 lefse-making activity were both well attended and positively received.

7. Board Reports

Adult Education (Marlin)

The majority of this month's meeting was dedicated to brainstorming plans for the upcoming year and identifying key needs. Many of the board's suggestions were centered on addressing food insecurity. One question raised was: What can we offer on Wednesday nights for young adults who attend with their children?

Building & Grounds (Dan)

The board submitted a request for \$3,795 to fund a lighting upgrade, which includes four movable spotlights connected to the lighting board. After discussing the urgency of the request and considering current budget constraints, the decision was made to table the request for another month or two to reassess our financial position before committing to the expenditure.

Solar panels were installed this past week; however, they are not yet operational.

Children, Youth, and Family (Michel)

The Youth group is planning a painting event for Friday, December 12.

Christmas Carols and Cookies is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th.

Congregational Life (Caylin)

The November donation drive (Give Thanks by Giving Back) just wrapped up and was successful.

The December Advent series is starting next week. December 2 and 9th at CTK.

Planning is ongoing for events next year. A hotdish competition is likely planned for January.

Justice & Peace (Hailey) - absent**Servant Outreach (Karen) – absent but sent email.**

Our November commitment at the Connections Shelter went well.

Waiting on District 77 for names on the giving tree

Stewardship & Finance (Jen)

Ongoing work on next year's budget. Jen is reaching out to all of the board chairs for their input.

Worship & Music (Kathy)

The two primary discussion topics were the safety plan and Advent recital scheduling. A safety planning meeting for multiple churches will be held at the Civic Center in December.

Regarding Advent recitals, one session will feature an 18-person brass band.

8. T-Mobile Grant Request

The YWCA has proposed pursuing a \$50,000 grant from T-Mobile, with YWCA taking the lead on the application. The grant would fund the creation of a dedicated space or hub at CTK focused on mental health. This initiative will only move forward if the grant is awarded. We are awaiting

additional details from YWCA before continuing the discussion and determining whether a vote will be necessary.

9. Quilter's Budget Request

The quilters currently operate without funding from the congregational budget. They produce approximately 100–150 quilts annually for Lutheran World Relief and also donate to organizations such as CADA, Connections Ministry, and support exchange students, etc. Each quilt costs about \$40 to make.

The quilters are requesting inclusion in next year's budget at \$4,000 annually.

There was discussion at the Exec meeting related to exploring alternative funding sources and potential fundraising opportunities. Additional discussion needed on this funding request.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- a. Exec Team Meeting – December 16 @ 4:30
- b. Congregation Council – December 16 @ 5:30
- c. Budget Form – January 21, 2026, after the 6:00 PM service
- d. Annual Meeting – February 1, 2026, after the 10:00 AM service

11. Closing Prayer

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by G Rudolf. Second by D Rickbeil. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @ 4:30

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @ 5:30