

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2026 @ 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*), Heather Krause (*Vice President*), Brennan Enstad (*Secretary*), Jennifer Svien (*Treasurer*), Gary Rudolf (*Past President*), Karen Moritz, Caylin Steinberg, Michel Haugh, Kathy Kachelmyer, Dan Rickbeil, Pastor Melanie

Members Absent: Hailey Bouldin, Marlin Spangrud

1. B Roessler called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

2. Devotions – Karen

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the amended agenda, including the addition of an RIC straw poll discussion, was made by J. Svien and seconded by D. Rickbeil. Motion carried.

4. RIC Straw Poll Discussion

Liz Zaruba, along with other members of the RIC team, provided an update on the recent straw poll. A total of 148 votes were received through both paper and online ballots. Of these, 124 votes indicated support while 24 votes did not support.

Updates are being made to the CTK website, bulletin board, and upcoming newsletter articles to offer additional educational resources. The RIC team is inviting congregation members to share “In your own words” stories about their experiences; participation is open to all.

A Faith Continuum event is being planned to further educate, with the speaker and dates to be determined.

5. Approval of January Council Minutes

A motion to approve the January council minutes was made by D. Rickbeil and seconded by J. Svien. Motion passed.

6. Discussion of Treasurer's Report

Jen reported that she is still waiting for the final monthly financials. Early indications show that income came in slightly better than budgeted, with some January contributions representing full-year giving.

Expenses for the month were generally in line with expectations. There is some cleanup work needed to ensure expenses are categorized correctly. For example, interest payments related to the capital campaign line of credit were inadvertently charged to the general fund instead of the capital campaign. These items will be corrected.

Jen will distribute updated financials once the finalized reports are available.

A pledge drive is anticipated for October. Current pledges toward the 2026 general fund are roughly \$521,000.

7. Pastor's Reports

Pastor Brittany reported that one of the major activities this past month was leading an Ash Wednesday service with Pastor Melanie at The Pillars of Mankato. The service was well attended.

Confirmation lessons are now posted on the church website for students who miss a session. An engagement survey is included at the end to demonstrate comprehension of the material.

Brittany also noted the upcoming Councils as Leaders event, hosted by the SEMN Synod, scheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM in Austin, MN.

Brittany requested ideas for increasing volunteer participation, especially for the Wednesday evening community supper. Much of the support currently comes from confirmation students, and a more balanced mix of youth and adult volunteers is desired. A sign-up is available on the CTK website under Get Involved → Community Meal Servers.

Pastor Melanie shared that the draft of the new church directory is complete, with the goal of finalizing it by Easter. Members are asked to review their information for accuracy.

The Lenten series "Tell Me Something Good" is underway, with several guest speakers scheduled for Wednesday evenings.

Pastor Melanie also noted that Carly Ballman resigned last Thursday after accepting a position outside of CTK. Melanie will meet with the personnel committee to review and post the updated job description.

Ring cameras have now been installed at two exterior locations of the church.

8. Board Reports

Adult Education (Marlin) - absent

Building & Grounds (Dan)

There were no major updates from the previous meeting. Dan will follow up with the committee to request a prioritized list of potential ideas for the use of excess capital campaign funds.

Children, Youth, and Family (Michel)

The Ash Wednesday meeting was cancelled due to weather. An ice-skating event is scheduled for March 22nd. The Kids Night In event, previously scheduled for March 6th, will be rescheduled to a later date.

Congregational Life (Caylin)

Puzzles & Pie, held on February 21, was a success. The March event will be the Minnesota Hotdish Competition on Sunday, March 22. The April event is planned to be a painting activity, tentatively scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 18. In May, the Senior Recognition Banquet will be held.

Justice & Peace (Hailey) – absent

A request was presented by the Justice and Peace board to add Barb Lake as a member. A motion to appoint Barb Lake as a new board member was made by G. Rudolf and seconded by K. Moritz. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Servant Outreach (Karen)

Our next Connections Shelter week is scheduled for March 8–14. Volunteers are needed.

Stewardship & Finance (Jen)

A new Time and Talent Survey will be coming out after Easter.

Worship & Music (Kathy)

CTK will be hosting a concert by Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI). Host families are needed for the visiting students. With 34 students attending, approximately 17 households are needed to host them for one night on Friday, March 6 - the same evening as the concert.

9. Office Administrator and Communications Position

Discussed during Pastor's reports.

10. Closing Prayer

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by G Rudolf. Second by H Krause. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 @ 4:30

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 5:30