

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
September 23, 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*), Marlin Spangrud, Caylin Steinberg, Kathy Kachelmyer, Michel Haugh, Dan Rickbeil, Pastor Melanie, Pastor Brittany

Members Absent: Karen Moritz, Hailey Bouldin, Jennifer Svien (*Treasurer*)

1. B Roessler called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2. Devotions – Brennan

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by G Rudolf and seconded by K Kachelmyer. Motion passed.

4. Approval of August Council Minutes

A motion to approve the August minutes was made by B. Roessler and seconded by G. Rudolf. Motion passed.

5. Nominate Vice President of Council

Motion by G Rudolf to nominate Heather Krause to serve as Vice President on the Congregation Council.

President Roessler asked two times if there were any additional nominations. After no new nominations, motion by M. Spangrud to close nominations. Second by K Kachelmyer. Motion carried.

Vote to approve Heather as Council Vice President unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

6. Discussion and Approval of Treasurer's Report

Operating Cash Position:

As of August 31, 2025, operating cash (net of restricted funds) totaled **\$131,733.27**, representing approximately **56 days of operating expenses**.

Income & Expense Summary:

Regular Offering: Fell short of the monthly budget by **\$19,898**.

Operational Income: Was **\$20,997** below budget.

Monthly Expenses: Came in **\$1,588 under budget**.

Net Income: Reflected a **loss of \$16,792** for the month.

Mortgage Interest: This month's expenses include interest payments for both **July and August**.

Cash Usage Concern: The Finance and Stewardship Board met earlier today and expressed concern over the need to use cash reserves to cover budget shortfalls. Last month, the cash position covered 60+ days of expenses, indicating a downward trend.

Ongoing Deficit Trend: We're currently trending at a monthly loss of approximately \$20,000, which may signal the need for closer financial monitoring and potential corrective actions. Motion by M Spangrud to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by G Rudolf. Motion carried.

7. Board Terms Updates

The Council discussed the need to install both the Church Council and associated boards in accordance with the constitution. It was agreed to aim for the 10:00 AM service on October 5th for the installation of Church Council members, aligning with the Council's scheduled participation in the Faith Continuum on that date.

8. RIC Task Force Welcome Statement Options

The RIC Task Force expressed interest in conducting a straw poll to gauge congregational preference among three proposed Welcome Statements. Due to the upcoming capital campaign, the Council discussed the possibility of postponing the poll until December to ensure it receives adequate attention and is not overshadowed. This timeline would still allow the Task Force sufficient opportunity to gather feedback ahead of the annual meeting.

9. Roof Update

The roof project is nearly complete. The solar panels have been installed, and the remaining work includes attaching the metal siding to the walls and connecting the solar panels. Completion is expected by the end of the month.

10. Loan Update

Barbie has been in communication with MIF regarding financing options. While a bridge loan was initially considered, the analyst has now recommended pursuing a line of credit, citing the same interest rate and a more streamlined process. Barbie is aiming to finalize the arrangement within the next few days.

11. Capital Campaign Update

A campaign planning meeting was held on Monday, September 22, with approximately 25 attendees. John Kind and David Krause, serving as co-chairs, are in the process of assigning team members to support the campaign. The overall tone of the meeting was very positive, marked by a strong 'can-do' spirit. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October. Temple Talks are planned for all worship services from October 1 through November 23. Notably, a gift has already been received in support of the campaign.

12. Other Items, Board and Committee Reports

Worship and Music Safety Plan: Worship and Music is currently working on updating the existing safety plan, which has a foundational structure in place.

Council Minutes Posting: Concerns were raised regarding the timeliness of posting Council minutes to the church website. Members would like minutes to be posted promptly upon submission to the church office. A disclaimer will accompany the minutes indicating they are unapproved drafts.

Council Liaison Reports: It was requested that Council liaisons provide brief highlight summaries from their respective boards, rather than referring to full board minutes. This would allow only the Council minutes to be posted on the website, rather than the entire Council packet.

Agenda Format Update: Marlin proposed a change to the Congregation Council meeting agenda format. Going forward, the agenda will follow this order: Pastor's Reports, Board Reports, and Committee Reports.

CYF Highlights:

- Youth Group for grades 7–12 will meet on October 5, with future gatherings planned for the third Sunday of each month. Friends are encouraged to attend.
- **Kids Night In** is scheduled for November 8.
- **Christmas Cookies & Caroling** will take place on December 6 from 3:00–5:00 PM, with caroling during the 5:30 PM service.
- **Christmas Musical** performances are scheduled for December 17 and December 21.

13. Pastor Melanie's Report

Endowment Committee - Motion by D Rickbiel, seconded by Marlin Spangrud, to appoint Randy Thompson to the Endowment Committee. Motion carries.

14. Pastor Brittany's Report

The Confirmation program is progressing well, with approximately 40 students currently participating. A retreat for sophomore students is scheduled for October 5.

15. Closing Prayer

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by G Rudolf. Second by D Rickbeil. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 @ 4:30

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 @ 5:30

Senior Pastor Report - Melanie JS Wallschlaeger

- 1) **“Covering Our Church in Love” Capital Campaign:** Our Capital Campaign is underway, and pledges are coming in! We are off to a great start as \$163,000 has been pledged and we're just getting started. I am encouraged by the great group of people who are part of the Capital Campaign leadership. I am confident and encouraged – we can do this!
- 2) **Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Task Force:** Will plan for a straw poll of the congregation this winter. The straw poll will give the RIC Task Force feedback they need as they plan education events in the spring. It will also help them assess our readiness for a congregational vote in 2026.

- 3) **YWCA Awning:** Executive Director, Ceceli Bidelman has shared this proposed design. The frame brackets will be attached to building in a way that uses existing holes/markings and will not damage the exterior any further.



4) **Winter Warm-up will be at CTK on Wednesday, November 19th, 6:15-7:30pm.** This is a special worship service featuring special music and messages for confirmation youth from surrounding congregations. This year's artist is AGAPE, a Christian rapper. All are welcome to attend. The Winter Warm-up event will be both worship & confirmation class for the CTK youth.

Associate Pastor Report for October—Brittany Mailleue

- **Boards:**
 - Worship and Music: 10/2
- **Preaching/Worship:**
 - Helped plan and painted map for Healing of the Nations service.
 - Planned and organized Affirmation of Baptism service for 10/26 at 3 pm
 - Pastor Melanie and I are taking up the task of responding to confirmation worship responses for weeks that we preach.
- **Pastoral Care ministry:**
 - Visitation-
 - Weekly checks at hospital-myself or Pastor Melanie
 - Phone calls and visits as needed
 - Visited with group at Mankato Lodge with Jodie Wallschlaeger
 - Visitation Ministry team
 - Still looking to use Elexio for better tracking of visitation needs. Will seek training for this.

- **Confirmation Program**
 - Confirmation
 - Writing curriculum
 - 10/1 Training in the different areas of worship
 - 10/8 Nun game- teaching about what medieval life was like
 - 10/15 MEA week not class
 - 10/22 Martin Luther bio
 - 10/29 Martin Luther skit
 - Tracking points and responding to worship responses
 - Confirmation retreat at Gustavus October 5th 16 students attend
 - Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) service will be on Sunday October 26 at 3 PM
- **Other:**
 - Spiritual Direction 10/6
 - Baptism October 11
 - Fall Theological Oct 12-14
 - off Oct 15-21
 - Planning and working on All Saints service