

**Cross of Christ Lutheran
Church Council Minutes
November 18, 2025**

6:00 pm

Mission Statement: "As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed, inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need."

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinet	P	A	Cabinet	P	A
Sandy Erickson (President)	X		Pastor Dana Jackson		X	Steve Halvorson (Finance)		X	Ellen Hongerholt (Stewardship)		X
Brad Hongerholt (Vice President)	X					Jessica Brand (Youth & Family)	X		Ron Evenson (Personnel)	X	
Marsha Benson (Secretary)	X					Mike Markegard (C of C Building)	X		Kathy Olson (Worship & Music)	X	
Patrick Forsyth (Financial Admin.)	X					Chuck Halvorson (C of C Grounds)	X		Heather Reay (Education)	X	
Karen Christensen (Financial Sec.)		X				Mike Berg (Evangelism)	X		Wayne Runningen (Stone Church)	X	
						Lyn Halvorson (Co-Chair WELCA)	X		Claire Reay (Youth Rep.)	X	

1. Call to order – 6:00 pm

President: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Council: Amen.

2. Devotions –

3. Review of the Agenda

4. Reports –

- a. Pastor's Report: No Report
- b. President's Report: No Report
- c. Secretary's Report: Ron made a motion to approve October 21, 2025, Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Wayne. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Financial Administrator's Report: We were at a loss of \$2,343 at the end of October, which is worse than budget. As a result of the furnace repairs, expenses were up. The budget for the year is better by \$5,000. A motion to approve the October 21st Financial Administrator's report was made by Mike M., seconded by Jess. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Cabinet Reports –

- a. Education: The Advent program is set for next Sunday. The Sunday School will have an Open House for the congregation to see the changes in the Sunday School rooms.
- b. Evangelism: 205 pounds of food was given to the food shelf. Mike Berg will be helping with the distribution of turkeys and pies on Thursday. He will be delivering meals on wheels on the usual day later this month.
- c. Finance: Revenue hasn't changed. The personnel expenses went up by \$4,800. Insurance for Pastor was one expected increase. Minnesota Paid Leave is a new expense. This is a

Minnesota state requirement for all employees making more than \$3,900 annually beginning January 1, 2026. Workers Comp Insurance increased, as did property and liability insurance. The budget ending is at (\$15,234).

- d. Personnel: No Report
- e. Cross of Christ Grounds: Chuck, Brad and Steve cut down the dying apple trees in the parking lot. The stumps were removed for \$250. The 2026 Grounds budget is \$6754. This includes True Green fertilizer \$903, snow plowing \$960, salting \$680, sidewalk shoveling & salting \$456, lawn mowing \$1755, weeding church landscape & Memorial Garden \$1500 and miscellaneous \$500.
- f. Cross of Christ Building: The cleaning and maintenance on all the furnaces has been completed. Unfortunately, the furnace heating the fellowship hall has developed cracks which could allow combustion gases to mix with room air, allowing the introduction of carbon monoxide into the room. Winona Controls did apply a sealant which allows us to temporarily continue to use the furnace. They also suggested deploying carbon monoxide detectors in the fellowship hall which Mike M. did. Unfortunately, this means we will have to replace that furnace. Mike has requested several quotes. The first quote from Winona Controls is \$11,552.
- g. Stone Church and Cemetery: The large pine tree to the south of the church needs to be taken down, so it doesn't fall on the church.
- h. Stewardship and Mission:

Stewardship Cabinet Minutes for meeting November 11, 2025, 10:30 a.m. In attendance: Erin Miller, Patrick Forsyth, Gayle Smith, Larry Jerviss and Ellen Hongerholt.

The Stewardship Cabinet discussed the Council's request to make recommendations on ways to bridge the gap if the Council decides to decrease its giving to the ELCA synod. Ellen shared the information Steve shared with the Council for context. Discussion ensued.

Bridging the Gap Idea if the Council Votes to Reduce Giving to Synod

The Cabinet's consensus is that if the Council decides on a decrease, Patrick or Steve will contact the synod and request more information on the details of how and where specific funds are distributed for relief and humanitarian needs across the U.S. and the World.

The Stewardship Cabinet will then create short but compelling appeals to the congregation, which could be made two or three times a year, to help cover the estimated funding shortfall of about \$5,000 or more (however the Council votes), ensuring the ELCA does not lack these funds. The main difference is that these funds are not allocated through the overall budget but are raised through increased giving.

The Cabinet believes that if we demonstrate the actual need with facts and specifics, hearts will be moved to help as shown by the congregation giving \$7,000 over two weeks in response to the N.C. Hurricane.

Stain-Glass Fundraising

No information was available on how much the stain-glass project had fundraised. Gayle/Patrick would ask.

Fun Visual to Promote the Campaign

Pastor Dana asked for a fun visual to promote the stain-glass campaign.

Ellen asked to reconsider a different approach that would take less time and potentially have a greater impact. Instead of a single large poster with lights that turn on as approximately 10 percent of the fundraising goal is reached.

At the time of the meeting, we knew that more than \$61,000 of the \$107,000 target had been raised, which roughly corresponds to 6 of the 12 stained-glass panels.

The Cabinet would cover the plastic on the panels with a single large strip of solid green wrapping paper, equal to the width of the panel, to show progress for each fully funded panel.

The Cabinet will initially complete six panels and will expand as funds are raised. Everyone agreed that, due to limited time Cabinet members had, as well as craftiness, this was the preferred approach to bring to the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m. Submitted by Ellen Hongetholt, Chair

i. Worship and Music:

- Communion Supplies - Moving forward all Communion supplies can be ordered through the church office and this includes wine.
- Banners in front of church – Pastor Dana has purchased two Advent banners for the front of the sanctuary and two Christmas banners.
- Valley View Heritage Court – W/M committee discussed and approved ending services @ Heritage Court but will continue providing worship twice a month at Valley View. If someone from Heritage Court wanted a Communion Visit, Pastor Dana is always able to provide that. Pastor Dana sent Amanda, Heritage Court Housing Director a letter explaining the decision.
- Lenten Service 2026 – W/M committee discussed and approved ending food service (meal/coffee treats) prior to the Holden services.
- Worship/music budget 2026 - The committee had no additions/subtractions to the budgeted amount this cabinet receives.

j. Youth and Family: No Report

k. WELCA: The Bazaar is this Saturday. November 7th will be the installation of officers, with the Cookie Walk following the Sunday service. December 9th is the WELCA Allocation and Calendar meeting. Forty-four quilts have been donated to the food shelf.

6. Old Business –

7. New Business –

8. Open Discussion –

9. Calendar – Up Coming events.....

• November 22	9:00 – 12:00 WELCA Holiday Bazaar
• November 23	9:30 a.m. Sunday School Advent Program/FB 10:30 a.m. SS/Club 56/Confirmation/Coffee hr.
• November 27	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
• November 30	9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB 10:30 a.m. S.S. Open House/Coffee hr. No S.S./Confirmation/Club 56

- December 1 1:00 Ruth Circle with Potluck
- December 7 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/Noisy Offering
WELCA Installation of Officers/FB
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./S.S./Confirmation/Club 56
- WELCA Cookie Walk**
- December 9 2:00 p.m. WELCA Allocation & Calendar Mtg
6:00 p.m. Executive Mtg
- December 12 2:00 p.m. WELCA Christmas Program
- December 14 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 a.m. SS/Club 56/Confirmation/Coffee hr./Cemetery Mtg
- December 16 6:00 a.m. Council Mtg.

Benediction President: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit order our days and our deeds in his peace. Amen

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully,

Marsha Benson, Secretary

Cross of Christ Church Council