

**Council Minutes**  
**December 11, 2025 5:00 pm**

**Members attending:** Mary Koepke, Dave Johnston, Pastor Tom, Ron Egelseer, Steve Stretz, Scott Siegrist, Susie Grulke, Sonja Daly, Paul Thusius

**Location:** Ron Engelseer's home

**Prayer partners** – “Where have you seen God at work this week?”- highs & lows

- SOAR book group Christmas party, Lutefisk dinner-people from all over, 2 Pastor's 2 ministers meetings - Lenten round robin pastors, other pastors, Susie's cousin's grandson cancer free

**Recite:** Our mission “Sharing God's Love, Caring for Community”

**Approve minutes:** Review/approve previous meeting minutes

- John motion to approve, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved

**Deepen:** Devotions: Scott

Devotions next time? Mary Koepke

- Christ in Our Home, Hidden from the Truth, Isaiah 35, Eyes of the blind shall be opened

**Next Meeting:** January 8, 2026

**Soup Troop:**

- Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> next meeting, Laura Savatski will take over soup troop lead

**Follow up on these items:**

**Prairie project**—Do we have an agreement with Miller Farms for next year?

- There is no current agreement. We are good for next year. After that it will have to be negotiated. He is open but we must let him know. The field needs to be used. There is an interest in lannon stone that Sonja has.

**Mission Fund** –Donation to Children's Cup

- Donation of \$2000 approved by council after discussion and email conversation. Child Smile needs have been clarified and there is enough money to meet demand.

**Belize Mission Team 2026, Jan 17-24, update.**

- Pastor Tom will have zoom meeting to confirm remaining details. We must have skid loader to complete projects.
- Lisa Sutrick and Kristi are coordinating youth, preparations going well. This is a big project.

**General topics:**

**Intern**—Pastor Tom. Any news yet?

- Anxiously waiting. No earlier than Dec. 10th. (post meeting communication the Intern selected a different location, not St. Olaf)

### ***New Piano?***

- There was a long discussion about possibly adding a new piano that Clara, Cathy and Sam can use. Many pros and cons about a separate acoustic piano vs better electronic. Also discuss current organ vs organ sound on electronic keyboard, the amount of room we have, etc. Round number cost may be \$15,000. +/-.
- Ron, motion to explore the possibility of getting a new piano in April time frame, whatever the musicians prefer after looking at them. Preference from discussion is an electronic/ digital piano. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pastor indicated that he will inform musicians they have the opportunity to select a new keyboard. Will come back to council for approval. All approved.
- (email correspondence following the meeting, Pastor indicated that Sam felt the 2<sup>nd</sup> keyboard, that praise band uses, is good enough. So, this project has been dropped at this time. We will continue to use what we have, both current keyboard plus the organ.)

### ***Stewardship, 2025: Living Generously***

#### **Pledge results?**

- Finance going through the data now. Some larger givers have lowered their pledge but we are at \$196,000. in pledges. Good response. Budget coming in about \$220,000 - \$230,000. Especially comparing to some other local churches.

#### ***Annual Meeting, Jan. 25.*** Reports due **Jan. 12.** Election of proposed list of candidates.

- Need to update details on committees, leaders, etc. Steve will send out and get updated.

#### ***Christmas Ad for Conley Newspaper...*** Scott developed ad and it was submitted.

- Thanks to Scott we have ad and will be sent out and on their website.

#### ***Approval of facility use agreement for a new home school group in 2026.***

- Some background was provided. Facilities agreement was discussed. We have not settled on fee yet and that needs to be finalized. Will discuss with them. Final agreement will then be reviewed.
- John made motion to allow them to use the facility (pending agreement), Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

#### ***Lutefisk Dinner.*** Results? Comments?

- 535 served. Every reservation spot was booked in advance. Had less walkins, some attrition.

#### ***Youth & Family Ministry*** –Scott

- Sunday school program on Sunday
- 3 students signed up for Youth Quake

- Confirmation wrapping up Old Testament. Flexible structure of sessions has been successful.
- Great youth help at lutefisk dinner and prep ahead of time.
- Also, at Scott's work they give out gift cards. Scott recommended they get them from our Scrip program. \$700. Purchased.
- There was a question about the amount in the youth account from a summary report. This was reviewed and it just appears to be a reporting error.

***Worship and Music-Dave***

- All services planned out until Jan. / Feb.
- Will be baptism of 39 yr. old on Sunday.
- Blue Christmas 2 weeks.

***Property Committee*** –Roof repair, chimney, water heater—Dave

New round tables?

- Parsonage roof done.
- Chimney was taken off. Put in new water heater – w/ power vent, high efficiency.
- Round tables: no rush, Dave suggested we can take funds out of Capital fund. Steve motion to approve the use of funds to purchase tables when needed, Susie 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved.

***Finance update*** —John. Budget?

- Returns have been good. Funds are performing as expected, Vision Fund, Scholarship Fund. General review. For details contact Finance / Kathy / John.
- 2.8% inflation so will propose staff increases to cover that.
- Will have budget ready for next meeting, finalized by the 12<sup>th</sup>.

***Vision Fund—***

- No report

***Thrive Team:*** Christmas workshop on Dec. 20.

- No other report

***Misc.***

- Rack of chairs by dumpster. Good chairs were selected and put in garage replace some other older chairs, good racks were kept, will scrap the old ones we have. Aluminum
- 3 ½ boxes of candy bars left. From that and donations \$2000. Plus \$2000. Matching funds – total \$4000. Received for St. Olaf.

***Closing: Lord's Prayer***