

St. Olaf Church Council Meeting Minutes February 19, 2026

1. Call meeting to order at 5:15PM by President Paul Thusius after open sharing of God's Blessings/Opportunities/Prayer Requests followed by Devotions from 1COR 13:4-7 and an Opening Prayer
 - a. Members present: Paul T, Dave J., John C., Sonya D., Ron E., Linda F., Scott S., Pastor Tom and Tim T
 - b. Our mission "Sharing God's Love, Caring for Community"
 - c. Review/approve previous meeting minutes Motion to Approve: John C Seconded: Dave J. motion passed unanimously
2. Reports
 - a. Executive: Paul T. passed around a spreadsheet for Board Members to update/add phone numbers and email addresses
 - b. Finance Committee: John C
 - i. Reviewed Stewardship commitments
 - ii. Reviewed Fire alarm and monitoring security system proposals in addition to switching to cellular phones instead of landlines and converting internet to residential instead of business rates. Although not all comparison numbers are calculated, it was determined that the savings are worth the switch and we should proceed forward with changing. Motion to Accept: John C. Seconded: Ron E. motion passed unanimously
 - c. Mission Fund Committee: Mary H. One time \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief. One time \$1000 to Family Promise (hold off until March when there will be matching funds available) \$100 per month to Olga's Kitchen (Pastor Tom awaiting receipt of a better expense break down from them so the donation may change) Nigerian Pastoral to support affected people in the struggling region. We are awaiting more specifics as to the amounts needed. In the interim ETCH for Africa out of Hutchinson, MN is a 501c3 corporation aimed at similar relief. Possibly have event to raise funds (?)
 - d. Property Committee Jerry & Cindy Schlieve provided photos of what is up there and are working with Herb Johnson to correct the damage done. Currently around \$4000 in repair investment costs already and another similar amount should be close to having it all done. Getting great discounts from those helping and having the creator of the steeple/cross (Herb) in tow has positively affected what will be a welcome outcome.

Parsonage doors – Pastor Tom is amassing quotes for different options to replace interior parsonage doors (18 inner and 8 individual). He will then present to Finance committee to review budgetary options.
 - e. Worship and Music: Dave J. – We will utilize in the Announcements section of the church service to highlight the specific church for the upcoming week: Where and if there is any pre or post service activities planned.
 - f. Youth Ministry: Scott S. Vacation Bible School is scheduled to be Serengeti themed focused on the Lord's Prayer. Possible date conflicts may exist that might affect participation rates. Quake participation is critically low and Scott will review options on keeping it going. Easter workshop will be focused on the Prairie and the children will be singing songs on Easter.

3. Previous Business

- a. Prairie Project: Mary H. Seeds sown with a few more left to go. On going planning is happening regarding a Bridge over the swale; an Arched entrance to the labyrinth and for tree/shrub acquisitions. Also to determine the best methods/placement of the Lannon stone being offered by the Dalys.
- b. Soup Troop – a go for February 20th
- c. Belize Mission Trip – Tabled for now as we await more information
- d. Update to Windows 11 for office computer. Steve S is still working on compiling information and subsequently updating us on the process and progress.
- e. Alerting Members to possible AI scams involving pastors, Pastor Tom/Leadership/Scott S will work on getting the information out sooner rather than later – before some member gets taken in by a very real looking scam regarding the elevated and ongoing threats with the use of AI (and other methods) of scams involving the name/likeness/image of Pastor Tom.
- f. Policy for outside use of our facilities (liability ins.) Paul T. & Dave J – No Update
- g. Retreat for council and key church leaders – April 11, 2026 @ St. Olaf 8 – 3pm

4. New Business

- a. Maple Syrup – in process
- b. Youth Pie Auction (MAR 8th) – coming soon
- c. Kids Easter Event (Apr 4th) (previously mention in Youth Ministry minutes above)

5. Closing

- a. Next meeting: March 12, 5:00pm
- b. May meeting adjusted to May 7th
- c. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer