

## Hope Lutheran Church Council – February 9 ,2026

**“As God’s people, abounding in hope, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to share in the unfolding experience of Jesus Christ”**

### **Call to Order @ 18:37**

**Roll Call:** Todd Johnson, Alli Martinson, Carol Mohr, Terrie Hanke, Nancy Hallin, Sue Tietz, Nancy Kaeding, Leanne O’Bryan

**Glimpses of God:** Prayers for Carol’s grandson

**Devotion:** Revelation 21:5 “Behold, I am making all things new!” As Pastor Judy arrives, now is our time to embrace change with open hearts and open minds.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve January minutes by Carol Mohr, second by Nancy Hallin. Passed.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Bios and pics of council members

**Treasurer’s Report:** Nancy Kaeding reviewed the financials for the month of January. Motion to accept Treasurer’s report by Carol Mohr, second by Alli Martinson. Passed. Noted during the report were two line items comparing energy numbers with previous year: Gas January 2025 = \$7,349 compared to January 2026 = \$3,053; Electricity January 2025 = \$2,728 compared to January 2026 = \$2,378. Both numbers indicate the building energy project was beneficial.

### **Old Business:**

**\*Annual Meeting Review:** The annual meeting was well organized and progressed efficiently. The side-by-side comparison of 2025 goals/outcomes with 2026 goals/outcomes was appreciated. Question raised about Benevolence Fund staying the same in 2026 was addressed by Trustees at Feb 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. They voted to add \$50/month to our benevolence gift that goes to the synod. Also for future years, we might include the letter from the CPA who does our annual financial review in the annual report.

**\*Bios and Pics of Council and Board Members:** Todd reminded us to send a picture and brief bio to him that will be given to Pastor Judy as a means for her to get to know us.

### **New Business:**

**\*Endowment Distributions 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Endowment interest was \$1,600. Distributions to the community \$1,000: \$300 Haven House, \$250 Neighbor to Neighbor, \$250 RN Salary at the Deb Adams Memorial Clinic in Los Heroes, El Salvador and \$200 to Fund 13. Distributions to ELCA Missions \$600: \$200 Irrigation System (2 @ \$100 each), \$250 Share of Safe Water Project (Well) and \$150 for a Latrine. Total of allocations \$1,600. Motion to accept Endowment allocations as recommended by Endowment Committee made by Carol Mohr, second by Terrie Hanke. Passed.

**\*Board Chairs and Board Goals for 2026:** Please give names of board chairs to Terrie Hanke to update the leadership picture board. Please give updates of annual board goals to Alice Bates.

**\*Transition Team Update:** Transition Team is planning coffee connections for February 15<sup>th</sup> to welcome Pastor Judy and family. Other plans for a few small social events are in the making to help Pastor Judy and her family get to know their Hope Family.

**\*Synod Assembly: Cross Connections – Building Bridges** will take place in Rice Lake at Bethany Lutheran on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We are seeking three delegates to represent Hope.

## **Reports:**

### **- Pastor's Report:**

### **- Youth Representative:**

**- Board of Education:** *(Provide educational and fellowship opportunities for youth & families to encounter the unfolding experience of God's love and equip them for a faithful future.)*

**- Rachel's Place Board:** *(Increase enrollment and to regain compliance with licensing.)* Set goals and introduced new members to Rachel's Place space, programs and policies.

**- Board of Outreach:** *(Our mission is to continue the ongoing outreach programs while remaining adaptable and receptive to addressing additional needs within both the church and our wider community.)* Working to transition chair responsibilities, Working to identify a volunteer coordinator for Beacon House, Coordinating Easter Cards for shut-ins with JAM kids and Grace, Caramel Roll Sunday tentatively planned for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and working to schedule Lidixé and host coffee connections to support the synod Neighbor to Neighbor campaign.

**- Board of Trustees:** *(Make monthly financial reports available to the council and congregation, monitor budget and spending, oversee building and grounds needs as well as expenditures, create the annual budget and continue to encourage electronic giving.)* Introduced new members to financial packet and accounts. Researching the process of creating a foundation so as to be prepared to receive financial gifts such as the Wolf funds and Anderson funds. Responding to concern from annual meeting, we discussed and voted to increase monthly benevolence gift to the synod by \$50/month – from \$1,250 to \$1,300. Discussed immediate building needs and are moving forward with replacing 4 windows before price increase takes effect in March.

**- Building & Grounds:** Sacristy roof has been replaced - \$4,975; Ordering two windows for east wing - \$2,900 and two windows - \$4,300 for Pastor's office before price increase takes effect in March. Other projects we hope to complete this year: replace roof on Klumby Building at around \$6,000, Exhaust Fan Motor and AHU 10 Motor - \$1,375 each. Total of above expenses is \$20,925 dollars. We currently have \$20,742 in the Capitol Improvement Reserve. CIR is supported each month by Ignite rent and general fund B&G line totaling \$1,000. We are receiving an early RMD of \$6,438 designated for window replacement. We also hope to address the Fireside Room carpet and Fireside Kitchen pass-thru counter top through an appeal.

**- Green Team:** For 2026 the Green Team intends to continue encouraging use of reusable and recyclable dinnerware in Hope's kitchen, Maintain the pollinator gardens, Share green ideas via Hope's website, Parish Paper and Hope's Happenings, Support Building and Grounds needs and Involve youth in Green projects and activities. Battery collection continues, giant hand chair to be incorporated in the pollinator gardens, Recycling containers in Olson Hall and kitchen will be marked. Hosting Coffee Connections on March 8<sup>th</sup> to support LED lighting upkeep.

## **Adjournment and Lord's Prayer @ 19:30**

Respectfully Submitted by Terrie Hanke

on behalf of Alice Bates