FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL
Meeting Agenda
7:00 PM Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Meeting in Upper Room and Via Zoom
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84168009362?pwd=ZUpEQWFwaXF2bmZlVFIvVnI3Nko0dz09

A. Opening Prayer and Dwelling in the Word – Pastors

B. Approve Consent Agenda
1. Meeting Agenda
2. Congregational Council Minutes – October 13, 2026
3. Parochial Report
4. Staff Reports
5. Committee Printed Reports

C. Action Agenda
1. Set Date for Annual Meeting (proposed January 31, 2027)
2. Property
Executive Session for Roof discussion

D. Financial Report
1. October Financials
2. Finance Committee Budget 2027

E. Discussion Agenda
1. Action from Committee Meeting Sept 9, 2026
2. Constitution Review, (Anticipated Completion/presentation for approval by January)
3. Committee liaisons
a. Worship and Music (Mark, Alissa)
b. Christian Education: Youth (Bev, Jenna); Adult Forum (Patrick, Rod)
c. Social Ministry (Karen)
d. Property (Rod
e. Stewardship (John)
Town Hall Review/Follow up
f. Fellowship (Shanon, Julianna)
g. Nominating (Bryce)
h. Gifts and Memorial discussion – (Karen)
h. Community Connections and Collaboration – (Kari)

E. Open Comments

F. Sending Prayer

G. Adjournment

October Executive Council Meeting Minutes: Nov 3, 2026, 7:00 pm

Present: Rod Johnson, Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Rod Johnson, Patrick Hayden-Roy; Excused: Bryce Anderson

Opening Prayer: Pastor Erin

Financials and Budget:

- Current YTD
- Review budget meeting discussion, future development
- Las Abejitas situation: Discussed payments.

Stewardship Update:

- Current Status: Reported on pledges so far; still quite a few pledges outstanding. Stewardship offering on the weekend reached its goal.
- Stewardship for All Seasons 2027-2028: https://stewardshipforallseasons.org/ This is a 24-month process/training/consulting program that First Lutheran could benefit from. Pastor Erin will consult with the Stewardship Committee about the resource and the request for funding.
- Nov 8th Town Hall Agenda: Stewardship Committee has this set up.
- Would like to have note cards sent by the Council in the aftermath of the campaign.

Property Committee Recommendation concerning roof project.

- Process to proceed using Ecostar Product. Need to explore the issues about which company will be hired to do the project.
- Resolution for Council: revised resolution was approved to present to the Council next week.

Staffing

- Personnel policy updates (we had talked about these earlier – prior written approval for part-time employees to work more than designated hours; Medicare requirement).
  - Adjusting Communications Director position status from salaried to hourly due to change in hours starting Jan. 1, since it is now under 40 hours.
- Annual Review: Need to consider what procedure we will use. To be moved forward as we come to the end of the year.

Constitution Review Update (anticipated completion): No target date yet; needs to be available for the **Annual Meeting** (last Sunday in January), so completion needs to be done according to the Constitution's requirements--30 days prior.

Other Activities

- Set annual meeting date: January 31, 2027.
- Designating all-committee nights - when to start and which days to meet--suggested that we need to work with the new 2027 Council. Discussion of which groups would be grouped together.
- Synod Event at First in early 2027: Request from the Bishop if we could host. No date is set.
- Veteran Recognition: Set for November 15th.
- CCC--December 5th is the Gifts of Hopes. Discussed partnering with ChefauChef, locking in a price for catering for some other events in the wake of the Town Hall this Sunday.
- Discussion with ConnectionPoint about possible grant from Lily Foundation which would be a partner institution in applying along with other churches in Lincoln.

Parochial Report

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. MEMBERSHIP as of October 1, 2026	1088	902
Members received:		
A. by baptism (15 years and under)		
B. by baptism (adult)		
C. transfer from ELCA congregation		
D. other Lutheran		
E. affirmation of faith		
F. transfer from non-Lutheran congregation		
G. other and statistical adjustment		
Members removed:		
A. death	1	1
B. transfer to ELCA congregation		
C. transfer to other Lutheran congregation		
D. transfer to non-Lutheran congregation		
E. other and statistical adjustment		
MEMBERSHIP as of October 31, 2026	1087	901

Average Attendance for October - *in-person only*

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
386	413	374	346	Online	224	223	256	213	234	217

Added:

Baptism:

Affirmation:

Transfer:

Other:

Removed:

Death: Ruby Augustine

Transfer:

Dropped Due to Inactivity:

Other:

Notes: Live Stream average for October 2025 is: no data available

Congregational Council Meeting

First Lutheran Church

October 13, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rod Johnson, Alissa Sandin, Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Bryce Anderson, Shanon Meyer, Bev White, Julianna Peters, Karen Statham, Mark Mesarch, John Bonaiuto, Kari Hoeft

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Patrick Hayden-Roy, Jenna Troutman

MEETING RECORDER: Ann Carlson

A. OPENING DEVOTION/PRAYER:
The meeting was called to order by Council President Rod Johnson at 7:00. Pastor Andrew led the opening devotion and prayer.

B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:
1. Meeting agenda
2. Congregational Council Minutes – September 8, 2026
3. Parochial Report
4. Staff Reports
5. Committee Printed Reports

It was moved by John and seconded by Kari to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried.

C. ACTION AGENDA:
1. Employee Health Insurance
It was moved by Alissa and seconded by Julianna for First Lutheran Church to sponsor the Portico Select HDHP plan for 2027. Discussion followed.
- The Executive Committee met with staff to discuss the option.
- First Lutheran would be going from a PPO to a High-Deductible plan with a Health Savings Account feature.
- There will be no change in the deductibles and total out of pocket limits with the Select HDHP option.
- Currently, health insurance premiums are paid 100% for the employee and 70% for family members.

The motion carried.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT:
1. September Financials

YTD receipts through September 30, 2026, were $39,591 under budget; YTD expenses through September 30, 2026, were 18,371 under budget; YTD deficit through September 30, 2026, was $21,220.

- The primary reason for the deficit in the receipts category is that the non-pledged receipts are under budget.
- The projected deficit at the end of the calendar year is $21,200.

2. Finance Committee
   The Budget/Finance Committee will meet in November after the October financials are available.
   The Stewardship packets will be distributed October 24th and 25th.
   The Stewardship Committee is looking for a 4% increase in pledges for 2027.

3. Fund II Accounts
   Currently, interest earned on the various Fund II accounts is prorated back into each account. Potentially, interest from the Fund II accounts could be used to somewhat offset the projected deficit. The balance of Fund II accounts approximates $200,000.

E. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

1. Action from Committee Meeting September 9, 2026
   There is no consensus yet on the church meeting nights. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are meeting night options. Pastor Andrew will discuss this topic with Pastor Erin.

2. ConnectioN Point update
   - Patrick will take the lead on ConnectioN Point.
   - The first food pantry was last month and twenty-four families were served.
   - Plastic bags from various stores are used in food distribution. Members of the congregation are urged to bring their extra plastic bags to church rather than recycling them at a grocery store.
   - An unbelievable amount of ministry goes on at ConnectioN Point.
   - We are looking for ways to support this mission with grant money.

3. Constitution Review, (Anticipated Completion/presentation for approval)
   Alissa and her team are about halfway through with their review. They will continue to work on it.

4. Staff Updates - None
    a. Employee Handbook Updates – this is an ongoing project.

5. Committee liaison
    a. Worship and Music (Mark, Alissa)
        - Money is needed for the church organ.
        - The Committee is looking at some of the Fund II accounts as well as asking the Memorials Committee for assistance in funding Auracast, which would assist those who are hearing impaired to better hear the church services and other church activities. Potentially, three different units would be needed (sanctuary, activity center, and chapel). Hearing aid loops would be included.

    b. Christian Education: Youth (Bev, Jenna); Adult Forum (Patrick, Rod)
    Faith Trek has the teachers needed until January.
    Middle school teachers are still needed.
    The Youth have been doing fundraising (M & M fundraiser and Bingo).

    Adult Forum was well planned out when Patrick was gone.
    Rod discussed an Adult Forum presentation from Sleep in Heavenly Peace. A noisy offering could assist. It is a nationwide organization that has worked with businesses to make beds for $250/each. The group stays away from donated beds.

    c. Social Ministry (Karen)
    Karen reported that the Social Ministry projects are well in hand. The most recent endeavors are Kicks for Kids; Crop Walk and Veterans Day.

    d. Property (Rod)
        1. Roof discussion
        The Property Committee is working on the next steps for the roof such that a recommendation can be made to Council.

    e. Stewardship (John)
        1. Pastor Erin Proposal

Pastor Erin asked that the Council, Pastors, and Staff submit their pledges by October 18. A message to the Congregation could potentially state the percent increase year over year or the amount pledged. Council members voted to table this idea for another year due to the short timeline.

f. Fellowship (Shanon, Julianna)
A continental breakfast will be provided on October 25 in between services in recognition of our pastoral staff.

g. Nominating (Bryce)
Bryan Hanson is pleased with the number of people who have consented to be nominated for an elected church position.

h. Gifts and Memorial discussion (Karen)
Craig Heier has been contacted about the needs of the organ as well as the Auracast system such that some or all of the funding for each can come from gifts and memorials.

i. Community, Connections and Collaboration (Kari)
The Gifts of Hope will start the first part of December.
First Friday Jazz started.

F. OPEN COMMENTS: There are more handicapped parking spaces close to 70th Street as was requested by the ushers.

G. SENDING PRAYER: Pastor Andrew led the sending prayer.

H. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Lead Pastor Erin Heidelberger Council Report **Nov. 10, 2026 Council Meeting**

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27







Journeys of Paul trip: This seems like an especially appropriate verse after the Journeys of Paul trip to Greece in October, where one of our stops was ancient Corinth. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be on this trip with First Lutheran members as well as church members and pastors of Omaha-area congregations (led by Pastor Paula Lawhead of Immanuel Lutheran, Bellevue). To be in a few of the places where the apostle Paul's missionary journeys took him and he worked to establish the first Christian churches was an amazing experience. There's much more to share than I can possibly do here, so that will have to wait for an adult forum (date TBD) when our First Lutheran crew can share more about the trip and its impact. A highlight for me was presiding at Communion using the words from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, the earliest written account of the Lord's Supper.

Sabbatical: The Greece trip followed closely on the heels of my return from sabbatical. A sabbatical report (as described in our sabbatical policy in the personnel manual) is forthcoming, and this month I'll also be working on the grant report required by the Clergy Renewal Program. I'll also give a sabbatical presentation at adult forum on January 31. It was truly a restorative and renewing time. But I'm also very glad to be back!

Consultation Committee: I'm currently serving a six-year term (started in 2025) on this synod committee that is now meeting about every two months. Bishop Johnson is working on much more training and utilization of this committee than has happened historically in the synod. The committee serves when there is a disagreement between or among congregations on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties involved. We serve as trusted advisors to the synod bishop by listening carefully, examining situations prayerfully, and offering counsel shaped by Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the church's constitutional commitments.

Building use agreement/application: We are due for a review and update of our building use agreement and application, which is a project I began working on prior to sabbatical and will continue working on in 2026. One of the issues this needs to address is keeping the sanctuary and Activity Center free on Saturdays, so that we can accommodate the increasing number of Saturday funerals, which is a ministry priority.

Updates to personnel policy manual: We have a couple of minor updates to make to our personnel policy manual, and I'll have those updates for the council to review for our December meeting.

Pastoral acts: I officiated the funeral service of Ruby Augustine on October 24.

I also want to say thank you for all of the words of love, support, and encouragement that you shared with Pastor Ron, Pastor Andrew, and me a couple of weeks ago. It has been a joy to read through those notes (I've been doing that slowly, to really enjoy them)—know how much I have appreciated them…and how much I appreciate you!

Grace + Peace,



October 16-18 – Vacation
19-21 – Fall Theological Gathering, Kearney
25 – Creed Milestone
November 4 – Taizé worship

November 8 – Town Hall
11 – Faith Coalition of Lancaster County
13 – Cluster Pastors gathering
15 – Stewardship Milestone
16-21 – Vacation
19-20 – NLOM Board Retreat
22 – Parent breakfast
23 – Micah 6:8 committee
December 2 – Advent Midweek Worship

There is a new worship opportunity that began on November 4. There will be a group of young adults offering a Taizé service in the chapel beginning the first Wednesdays of the month. We will be attending the service as a confirmation class and the rest of the congregation is invited to attend.

In our continued efforts to have milestones for each grade level, we recognized a couple students for learning the Creed and will have a chance for a new milestone on Stewardship coming up this month. Our ultimate goal is to have one milestone per Sunday school class per year.

During the FaithTrek hour on November 22nd, Lillie will be hosting a parents' breakfast. Come and enjoy food and give feedback on what you think will work for our young people. This idea came out of our participation in the Font and Faith Initiative and is one more way we are putting that program to use at First.

We are a month away from Advent services! We will be meeting on Wednesdays in Advent to learn about three of the saints whose feast days are in December. Come and see!

Director of Worship and Music
October 2026

Sunday Morning Musicians

October 4	(both)	Jazz Team (Tony Anderson, Kristi Fisher, Alex Hinton, Sophia Johnson, RJ Metteer, Matt Reckmeyer, Bob Schoettger, Bennett Bacon, Jenna Troutman (8:15), Martha Tanners (10:45))
	(10:45)	Faith Trek
October 11	(8:15)	Scott Vicroy, Heather Poysa
	(10:45)	Adult Choir, Mark Mesarch
October 18	both	Spirit Ringers
	(8:15)	Megan Hulse, Kathy Havlicek-Cook
	(10:45)	Lillie Lademacher
October 25	(both)	Brass (Tony Anderson, Spencer Janssen, Steve Janssen, Matt Reckmeyer, Jay Sears, Bennett Bacon (8:15), Tom Thorpe (10:45))
	(8:15)	Brian & Erin Niebuhr, Tracy Knezvic
Cantor:	(10:45)	Adult Choir, Martha Tanner

Saturday Musicians

October 3, 17, 24 - Christine Carman October 10 – Kristina Hanson October 24 – Masako Bacon

Overview: Counting every blessing of dedicated musicians at First Lutheran bring to worship services.
Hearing Aid System Pursuit - Auracast is the system Brian Niebuhr recommends after his research. Worship & Music supported the choice. Tim Keckley, our sound technician agrees that would be a strong next generation system. Only concern is that is yet developing new system and don't have people experiencing the system firsthand. Worship & Music Committee has been seeking some venues to have people experiencing, and contact Audiologist in town to find out if it is compatible to what they use/recommend. Brian has a plan for the people who don't have compatible hearing assist system. I have contacted Gift & Memorial committee for the funding. It seems to be wise to continue the research, but take the process slow to ensure that is the best benefit to our church.
Worship Assistants: It is wonderful to see Confirmation Class and family serving on Sundays. I appreciate Bonita's efforts to recruit worship assistants as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Soli Deo Gloria
Masako Bacon

Lillie Rademacher

Youth Ministry Coordinator

October 2026 Council Report

This month has gone by so quickly, I'm having a hard time accepting that we only have two more months left in the year! Where has 2026 gone?

I've officially registered eight students and three adults (including myself) for the Gathering. This brings us up to eleven people that are going to the Gathering from First, and I'm super stoked about the group that we're bringing.

Due to this being a more expensive trip than years past, fundraising is of the essence! So far this year, we've raised just shy of $2,000 with our bingo event and the M&M fundraiser. The M&M's were a hit, so I'll definitely bring that back next year!

We're almost a quarter of the way to our fundraising goal, so hopefully our staple fundraisers (annual meeting, Jazz, Mardi Gras pancakes) will help us reach the bulk of our goal of $10,500. At the time of me writing this report, we are currently running our Coffee Roaster fundraiser. This is also a new fundraiser for us, so I'm hoping that this one will be successful as well!

I'm also continuing to plan the Winter Retreat with American Lutheran Church. So far, we have several kiddos signed up, with three attending from First Lutheran. I'm very excited about our service opportunities and the exciting plans we have for our youth!

I'm looking forward to another wonderful month of ministry here at First Lutheran!

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

October 2026

Kathleen Simley, Communications Director

COMMUNICATIONS SNAPSHOT

October communications focused on launching the 2027 stewardship campaign, sharing the impact of First Lutheran's outreach ministries and preparing for the December Gifts of Hope market. The month also included the opening of the 16th season of First Friday Jazz and promotion of worship, fellowship and community events.

KEY COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched *Every Blessing in Abundance*, the 2027 stewardship campaign based on 2 Corinthians 9:8–12, on October 18. Mailed a postcard to all households the week before launch and created the materials for member stewardship packets. Built a stewardship webpage with links to submit a pledge and share time and talents, along with FAQs and a finance update. Created a reflection board in the Commons and a pledge tracker in the Gathering Area. Promoted the Council's $1,000 challenge for the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry. Each week, *First Things First* featured a video of Sunday's Temple Talk, a reflection question, prayer and an Abundance Story tied to the week's theme.
- Highlighted the impact of Kicks for Kids, which provided 390 pairs of shoes and 1,450 pairs of socks to 10 area schools.
- Shared the story of 137 quilts made by First Lutheran's quilters for Lutheran World Relief. The quilts were blessed October 17–18 before being packed for shipment to the Omaha distribution center.
- Promoted Seasoned Adults (October 21), Pastor Appreciation Sunday (October 25) and Wild Women of First (October 26), along with Justice in Action listening sessions, the CROP Walk and the M&M fundraiser.
- Prepared early November communications, including the All Saints Sunday bulletin insert and promotion for the November 6 First Friday Jazz concert with The Lightning Bugs.
- Developed the *A Thrill of Hope* theme and visual identity for the December 5–6 Gifts of Hope market. Began planning the display and interactive online catalog to show how gifts help the people our partners serve.

- Met with Lillie, our Youth Ministry Coordinator, to continue discussing ways to communicate directly with youth and families, with an emphasis on grades 6–12.

MY WEEKLY PROJECTS

- First Glance Bulletin Insert
- First Things First E-Newsletter
- The Trekker Times E-Newsletter for FaithTrek families
- Sunday Worship Livestream
- TV Slides
- Facebook, Instagram, Realm and News posts
- Website updates as needed
- Digital sign updates as needed

GENERAL TASKS

- Event Promotion, Outreach and Follow-Up
- Social Media Planning and Posting
- Newsletter and Article Writing
- Worship and Livestream Promotion
- Ministry Team Communication Support
- Graphic Design for Print, Digital and Social Platforms

YEAR TO DATE DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT COMPARISON

January through May

Platform	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
FTF Open Rate	68%	69%	65%	64%	65%
FTF Click Rate	9%	6%	8%	7%	5%
Facebook Views	13,908	14,515	17,523	40,914	19,733
Facebook Interactions	303	352	281	788	410
Facebook Followers	1,123	1,128	1,136	1,138	1,137
Instagram Views	1,358	1,727	1,146	3,324	1,504
Instagram Interactions	31	26	25	73	31
Instagram Followers	223	221	219	221	218
Website Page Views	7,775	7,343	6,996	5,914	6,289
Website Users	6,325	6,024	5,370	3,929	4,849
Livestream Page Views/Visits	131	125	150	163	133

June through October

Platform	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
FTF Open Rate	65%	64%	66%	66%	63%
FTF Click Rate	8%	5%	5%	3%	6%
Facebook Views	22,884	19,542	25,502	23,717	31,589
Facebook Interactions	475	570	582	634	870
Facebook Followers	1,145	1,153	1,161	1,169	1,179
Instagram Views	1,824	4,813	3,527	2,166	1,886
Instagram Interactions	26	22	45	15	41
Instagram Followers	218	220	225	229	229
Website Page Views	5,285	3,391	3,204	2,880	3,156
Website Users	3,662	1,904	1,657	1,335	1,779
Livestream Page Views/Visits	139	104	180	104	105

OVERALL TREND

Facebook views, interactions and followers all rose in October. Instagram views declined, while interactions rose from 15 to 41 and followers held steady at 229. The *First Things First* open rate fell from 66% to 63%, while the click rate doubled from 3% to 6%. Website page views and users increased, and livestream page views held nearly steady at 105.

Two Facebook posts about Quilt Blessing Sunday drew some of the strongest reach I can remember. The first invited people to the blessing with photos from last year, and the follow-up showed all 137 quilts made this year. Together, the posts generated 14,451 views, 357 reactions and 17 shares and brought in 10 new followers. With 92% of views coming from people who didn't already follow our page, the posts introduced First Lutheran and our quilting ministry to a much wider audience.

PLANS FOR NOVEMBER

In November, I will support Commitment Sunday on November 8 and follow up with the congregation after the campaign. I will also continue preparing the Gifts of Hope catalog and promotional materials and working on Advent communications. The updated website and Member Photo Directory remain on the project list for November and December.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting
Nov 2, 2026 @ 7 pm

Attending: Boyd Bacon, Masako Bacon, Jan Wigodsky (from Altar Guild), Gordon Youngquist, Harold Sutter, Ryan Luckey, Brian Nieubur, (from LiveStreaming team), Mark Mesarch (from Church Council), and Alissa Sandin (from Church Council).

Opening devotions were presented by Harold Sutter. He presented a reading from his daughter, Pastor Heather Grell from Holy Cross in Omaha, on gratitude listing. The following reports and topics were discussed:

Communion Ware: Masako reported, on behalf of Bonita, that new artists are being contacted, but discussions have not yet ensued.

Altar Guild: Jan did not report any issues.

Live Streaming: The discussion of whether FaceBook is a satisfactory venue for our online services was continued. At October's meeting, Boyd had reported that there may be a problem with contemporaneous viewing, but later viewing seems to be successful. Alissa successfully accessed contemporaneous viewing on November 1st, but noted that sorting it out took some time. Some form of tech support may need to be offered to viewers. We didn't discuss additional information about difficulties with contemporaneous viewing.

Mark led a discussion of Kathleen Simley's questionnaire about the livestreaming experience. Discussion about what might make the viewer feel more welcome ensued. A return to a verbal welcome in the announcements and downloadable copies of bulletin inserts were suggested. Brian was able to answer a number of the questions raised, but conclusions about any changes were not reached.

Accessible Audio System: Discussion continued from the last meeting. No conclusions were reached, but it was noted again that as First Lutheran is an older congregation, there are many who use hearing aids and/or have hearing difficulties and could presumably benefit from such a system to assist hearing.

Investigations continue.

Organ Problem: An update on the resolution of the organ problem was not discussed, but Masako reported after the meeting that the needed repair was accomplished.

Hanging of the Greens/ Setting up Nativity Scene Components: This project is planned for November 22nd after the 10:45 service. Harold discussed the need for volunteers for both of these projects and indicated those who could lift heavy items and climb ladders would be needed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Alissa Sandin

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS & COLLABORATIONS TEAM

OCTOBER 2026

OUR MISSION

To welcome and embrace one another, partner with others and grow as disciples through meaningful relationships within our church and beyond our walls.

OCTOBER SNAPSHOT

First Friday Jazz opened its 16th season with about 250 attendees, most from outside First Lutheran. The CCC Team reviewed how the Vitality Initiative can guide its work and continued planning for Gifts of Hope, the Veterans Day lunch and the Member Photo Directory.

MEETING DATE

October 12, 2026

TEAM MEMBERS PRESENT

Gene Cotter, Sherri Cotter, Kari Hoeft, Lee Rockwell, Mark Wemhoff, Cindy Lilleoien and Staff Liaison Kathleen Simley

CELEBRATIONS & IMPACT

First Friday Jazz: The season opener drew about 250 people and an $800 donation from an attendee. The League of Women Voters reported a positive response to its information table. The team discussed inviting other groups to future concerts.

Seasoned Adults: An average of about 30 people participated in each of the last three gatherings. More than 20 had signed up by the meeting for the October 21 tour of Nebraska Public Media, followed by lunch at Villa Amore.

Vitality Initiative: Kathleen reviewed the Planning Guide and its emphasis on accompanying, or walking with, others. The team will continue to refer to the guide as it plans its ministry.

IN PROGRESS

Transportation Ministry: The team will consult Visitation Pastor Ron Drury about next steps. Kathleen will check with Linda Maack about her team's medical transportation work. There was no new development on the potential Immanuel Communities partnership.

Veterans Day Lunch: Chef au Chef will serve a hot meal to 55 residents at Victory Park Apartments on November 11. Donations had covered about half of the meal cost as of the meeting, with $500 received. Two First Lutheran veterans will visit with residents during the lunch.

Member Photo Directory: Kathleen received the final batch of photos and anticipates making the directory available between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Helping Hands Ministry: Recent requests included help moving a freezer and finding a contractor. Helping Hands cards will be placed on First Friday Jazz tables and the team will review a list of other service providers it could share.

Gifts of Hope: The team identified 12–13 organizations for the December 5–6 market. Kathleen is developing the online catalog. December's Noisy Offering and children's message will feature God's Global Barnyard from ELCA Good Gifts.

Catering and Committee Coordination: Cindy and Terry met with Fellowship Committee representatives to identify meals that might benefit from outside catering. They will meet with Chef au Chef to discuss a proposal for selected events.

Wild Women of First: The October 26 gathering will collect personal hygiene items for Voices of Hope in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM
Second Monday of the month. No December meeting.

Fellowship Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Attending: Judy Batterman, Karen Moser, Carlene Falos, Gordon Wolfe, Teresa Brohimer, Linda Bogenreif, Julianna Peters, Linda Carlson

Devotions were given by Linda Carlson.

Review of Past Events: Judy reported on having attended the Vitality Initiative meeting on September 9th. Those attending received the V.I. handbook and reviewed the accompaniment model, with categories including discipling, welcoming, embracing, advocating, and partnering.

Upcoming Events: 1. October 25 is **Pastor Appreciation Sunday**, and the church will have a reception for our pastors. As of now, our committee has not been asked to assist. Judy will let us know if we are needed.

2. **Town Hall Meeting** will be held on November 8th after the 10:45 service. (There will be NO 8:15 service due to the running of the Half Marathon.) Instead of a potluck dinner, the meal will be catered and the Fellowship Committee will serve. This day is **Commitment Sunday**.

3. **Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast**, sponsored by our committee, will be between services on Sunday, November 15th. We discussed the agenda; menu; invitations via "At A Glance" and "First Things First;" emails to Linda C. from veterans citing their name, rank, branch, of service, and time in service; a memorabilia table; table set in honor of missing comrades; and table decorations.

4. **Thanksgiving** will occur on November 26, and we will serve the traditional Thanksgiving dinner. As in the past, we will provide the turkey, dressing, and potatoes, and people who attend will bring other dishes for the meal.

5. **Advent Wednesdays for serving lunches and suppers** will be December 2, 9, and 16. (The 23rd will be during Christmas week, and there will be no noon or evening meal that day.

6. Our committee serves coffee and treats this coming **Sunday, October 18**, between services.

Our **next meeting** will be on Tuesday, November 10, at 5:30. We will make the frozen fruit cups that evening for the Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast.

Devotions next month will be given by Gordon Wolfe.

Submitted by Linda Carlson, Secretary.

First Lutheran Church
Property Committee Minutes October 27, 2026

Attending: Norman Kempf, Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Rod Johnson, Les Carlson, Richard Draper, Bob Batterman, Steve Lenzen, Steve Doolittle, Janis Strautkalns

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

Opening prayer: Steve L

Minute taker: Les

Minutes for the September PC meeting were approved.

Agenda:

The only item on the agenda was how FLC should proceed regarding repairing the roof. After much discussion the PC unanimously approved a motion to recommend to FLC church council that EcoStar (synthetic) tiles be used in the roof repair project. Toby Duncan with Precision Roofing will be contacted regarding their interest in submitting a bid to repair the roof using EcoStar tiles.

Prayer: November Steve Doolittle

Minute taker: Les

Stewardship Committee
October 28. 2026

In attendance: Pastor Erin Heidelberger, John Bonaiuto, Matt Peters, Kathleen Simley, and Linda Bogenreif. Pastor opened with prayer.

Temple Talks and Guest Speaker: Laura Graulty spoke October 18th, and Travis Kahl spoke October 25th. Donald Schneier is scheduled for November 1st with Mark Mesarch and Fred Ohles presenting a skit at the 10:45 service on November 8th. Aaron Renkenberger, Area Director of Mosaic Day Planning will be guest speaker for the November 8th service.

Continued Messaging: Kathleen will promote passages from 2nd Corinthians 9:8-12 citing abundance and grace using the First Glance bulletin insert, the Wednesday morning online newsletter, and the commons area bulletin board encouraging members to realize what this means in their lives.

Pledges: Pastor Erin's letter citing 2nd Corinthians 9:8-12 for the congregation to use in considering their role at First Lutheran for the next year was the beginning of the packet. Kathleen has completed the packet with a pledge card, instructions, time and talent options, and a descriptive page echoing the theme of abundance for the past year and upcoming year. A handwritten postcard done by Nancy Hoppner, Jan Wigodsky, Kim Janssen, Linda Bogenreif, Betsy Bjerke, and Matt Peters appreciating congregants was also included. Approximately 495 packets are assembled. Packets were available for pickup in the church gathering area as of October 25th. Those not picked up will be mailed after November 8th.

Pledge Goals: Kathleen has outsourced a display for the church gathering place allowing for the congregation to follow pledge efforts and goals. Matt Peters offered to cover the expense of the professional poster. The Committee will offer a $500 donation to the Lutheran Food Pantry if donations reach 40% of the $970,000 ($388,000) budget by November 1st. The Council has been asked to match, creating a potential benefit to the Lutheran Food Pantry of $1000. As of the meeting date of the 28th, pledges stood at $191,729.

Discussion ensued as to a way to thank those who have completed their pledges and forms. Pastor will ask Council to do thank you's, using a note created by Kathleen. Stewardship will help if asked.

November 8th Meal: Chef au Chef to cater a gluten free main course. The total cost for 150 servings will be $900. Desserts will be from volunteers. Those to be included in plans will be Janis (tables/chairs), Steve Lenzen, and Denise, parish coordinator. Fellowship Committee will be assisting in serving. Kathleen Simley has offered to provide table centerpieces. A short program will include welcome and pledge update by Matt Peters, comments from Aaron Renkenberger, with the choir singing their benediction to end the gathering.

Budget: acknowledgment that congregant donation envelopes are part of the budget allotted to stewardship, running about $275 a year and charged in January. This should be accounted for in future stewardship campaign planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bogenreif