

Salemsborg Lutheran Church Council Agenda + Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2026 at 7 P.M.

Mission Statement: *"We at Salemsborg have so benefited from the gifts of God's love, peace, strength and joy through Jesus, that we seek to share these same gifts with others in grateful response!"*

Executive Summary

- Approved the May 11 minutes and financial report.
- Reviewed cash position: \$62,436.89 savings, \$28,117.80 checking, about \$3,500 uncleared checks, and \$3,157.28 remaining organ funds.
- Approved moving remaining organ funds to general maintenance for current HVAC/maintenance needs.
- Reviewed strong maintenance progress: organ repair, HVAC unit, cottage roof, barn roof, propane tanks, tree trimming, and elevator inspection.
- HVAC remains the biggest near-term facilities issue; more decisions wait on grant results, bids, and further review.
- Approved the \$10,000 Weimer Foundation gift for the upper room chair lift, TV, and furniture project.
- Reviewed youth/member updates: new HS youth leaders, Sunday school planning, camp participation, and New Member Sunday on September 13.
- Mission committee meets August 18; updated mission/vision wording needs to be used consistently.
- 2027 budget planning will begin; council members should start identifying candidates for open seats.
- Next meeting: September 14, 2026.

Call to Order: Council President

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ben

I. Consent Agenda

Minutes from the May 11 meeting were reviewed.

- M.1 and M.2 seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

B. Financial Report: see attached

- Peoples Bank savings: \$62,436.89.
- Regular checking: \$28,117.80.
- Approximately \$3,500 in checks have not yet cleared.
- Remaining designated organ repair funds: \$3,157.28.

- T-shirt sales still need \$352.50 to break even.
- Budget report reviewed, including remaining maintenance funds and expected HVAC/electrical expenses.
- M.1 to approve the financial report. M.2 seconded. Motion carried.

II. Communications:

Pastor's Report

- New high school youth leaders: Karik and Jacob Gormley.
- Keir and Ashley continue with middle school youth.
- Youth coordinator role will likely shift away from the current position toward parent-led planning, youth leader support, and communications handled by Melanie, potentially using SignUpGenius.
- Abby is expected to take over children's choir responsibilities from Molly.
- Sunday school leadership remains in place; parish youth and Sunday school leaders meeting planned.
- Camp attendance was strong this summer.
- New Member Sunday: September 13, with more than 20 new members so far this year.
- Pastor Ben and Melanie are working on a welcome/information packet for new members.
- Pastor Ben reported continued hospital and visitation work; anyone needing visits should be communicated to Pastor Ben or Melanie.
- Golf tournament remains the main camp fundraiser and may be scheduled in October.
- Pastor Ben will be gone September 6; Clair Oleen will cover worship.

Committee Reports

Memorial:

- \$20 was reported under the Kyler Anderson memorial, with an additional \$25 received.

Worship & Music:

- Hymn selection discussed, including requests for more familiar songs and consideration of hymn texts connected to the lessons.
- Abby taking over children's music was discussed.
- Funeral guidelines remain under consideration.
- Gracyn Bauer wedding: September 19; Amy Rorbach agreed to do sound.
- Pastor Ben will be gone September 5 and 6.

- Food drive planned for Redeemer Lutheran food pantry in Salina.
- First communion class: September 12 at Salemsborg.
- New Member Sunday: September 13.
- Confirmation: October 25.
- Next Worship and Music meeting: October 4.

Youth & Family:

- Sunday school leaders will meet before September.
- Current curriculum will continue through this year.

Outreach:

- Pool party attendance was approximately 56 people.
- August 29 fun day in the revitalized park discussed, including pork butt cook-off, games, live music, and cemetery fundraiser.

Maintenance:

- Completed: organ repair, HVAC unit replacement for Pastor's office/downstairs office, cottage roof replacement, barn roof painting, propane tanks north of church refreshed, trees trimmed around Fellowship Hall, and elevator inspection.
- HVAC bids received for full system replacement of approximately \$100,000.
- Elevator is safe but difficult to use and should remain on the project list for potential upgrade.
- Basement windows still need additional work, though some work has been completed.
- Electrical repairs from the Church Mutual inspection need follow-up; B&B bill appeared related to HVAC power repairs rather than the full inspection list.

Mission and Vision:

- Earl Bane Foundation grant proposal submitted for \$95,000 toward HVAC replacement.
- Results may be available in September.
- Mission committee has seven interested participants and will meet August 18 at 6:30 P.M.
- Vision update is complete, but updated wording needs to be used consistently in bulletins, newsletters, and agendas.

Farm Committee:

- Conservation/erosion issue discussed along Burma Road south of the Home Telco building.

- County-installed culvert is causing washout and has exposed HCl fiber cable.
- Tom has spoken with Home Telco and Dustin Dirt from the Soil Conservation Office.
- Potential repair may cost \$3,000 to \$4,000; no cost share available.
- Work will be reviewed after crops are cut and after a solution is designed.

III. Old Business

No old business was acted on.

IV. New Business

A. HVAC and Electrical Issues

- Discussed HVAC expenses, maintenance budget impact, and remaining designated organ repair funds.
- Council discussed using remaining organ-related funds for maintenance needs, especially the HVAC unit already replaced.
- Motion to transfer remaining organ repair balance to the general maintenance fund for current maintenance/HVAC needs. M.1 Kyle M.2 seconded. Motion carried.
- Additional HVAC replacements, including rental house unit concerns and other aging units, were tabled pending more information and possible grant results.
- Council agreed to review contractor bids and seek good value before additional large HVAC commitments.

B. Chair Lift / Upper Room Special Project

- Nita Kay and John presented a proposal to use a \$10,000 Weimer Foundation designated gift for the upstairs room in the Fellowship Center.
- Purpose: make the room more usable for Bible study and other church groups; Bible study group is at capacity and needs a larger, more practical space.
- John reviewed Lifeway Mobility proposal for a Harmar SL-600 stair lift with automatic mechanical folding rail.
- Stair lift quote: \$6,323.41 including tax; church expected to provide tax-exempt documentation.
- Remaining gift funds would be used for a larger TV and seating/furniture.
- Discussion included accessibility, youth group use, safety, storage of remotes/keys, removal of old couches, and communication to the congregation that this was a designated gift.
- Motion to proceed with the chair lift, TV, and furniture up to the \$10,000 designated Weimer Foundation gift, with John authorized as representative. M.1 Kyle M.2 seconded. Motion carried, with one nay vote.

C. Children's Choir

- Children's choir appears to be addressed with Abby willing to take over responsibilities from Molly.

D. 2027 Budget Process

- Jennifer will begin the normal budget process, comparing spending and budget needs and adding quotes/known items as available.
- Mission fund currently has zero budgeted after the annual meeting.
- Future grant opportunities may affect operational and maintenance expense planning.

E. Council Member Replacements

- Council discussed upcoming open seats and renewal/replacement needs for members finishing terms.
- Members were asked to think of proactive candidates with energy and helpful skills.
- Mona will consider whether to run for a full term.

VII. Closing: Lord's Prayer & Adjournment:

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjournment.

VIII. Next meeting: Church Council Date: September 14, 2026