

**Salem Lutheran Church Council
May 19th, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Ron DeJong, Todd Osman, Robin Schwaegerl, Naomi McVay, Colleen Kahler, Steve Heggstad, Kent Weckwerth, Pastor Sam Kautz

Call to Order by Ron DeJong at 7:06 pm

Opening Prayer by Pastor Sam Kautz

Secretary's Report for April 2026 Meeting

Motion: Approve the Secretary's Minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting

Motion made by Kent Weckwerth. 2nd by Steve Heggstad. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Reviewed by notes submitted from Jackie Lindvall – Reviewed April 2026/YTD Assets & Liabilities as well as Income Statement notable items.

- Reviewed letter presented from Minnwest Bank for comparison of banking options.
 - Action item: Ron DeJong will check with Old National on what the \$30 per month charge is related to in comparison with other banking options.
- Reviewed outstanding amount remaining to cover cost of parking lot project. Currently need \$3400 to cover entire expense.
 - Plan to review donations received throughout May to determine how to address remaining amount.
- Motion: Approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report.
Motion made to approve by Robin Schwaegerl. 2nd by Naomi McVay. Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda:

- **Coverage of office activities:** Diane Shultz and Pastor Sam Kautz have been covering some of the responsibilities during Fred Blom's medical leave. Carman Mills is willing to help if needed.
 - Action item: Robin Schwaegerl will reach out to Fred to determine if some of the responsibilities can be done while at home? Based on response, council can determine coverage needs and timeline to address with those willing to assist.
- **Request for School Sports & Activities Booster Support:** Approval for the \$300 level. Motion to approve \$300 out of General Fund was made by Naomi McVay. 2nd by Kent Weckwerth. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report –

- Provided some insight on anticipated pastoral transition process and discussions within UMC and Methodist Leadership.

Committee Reports -

***Fellowship/Outreach/ Social Ministry and Evangelism** – Served rolls provided by Esther Mills during social gathering to celebrate graduates. Confirmed receipt of a \$500 grant for "The Table Breakfast". Monthly event for The Table Breakfast was done last month with plans for month of May. Ice Cream social represented by Carman Moore will determine which selection recommended by the church council for Free Will Funds received during event. Action item: Colleen Kahler will follow up with Carman Moore to determine which fund the event will support.

***Stewardship** – Thankful to the members of the congregation for response in providing donations towards covering expenses of parking lot. Will monitor remaining amount to cover overall cost. Also, continue to review monthly financials based on approved budget.

***Property** – Several items identified below:

- **Parking lot:** Initial effort was completed with Roger Tilberg reaching out to contractor for sealing along edges. Action item: Todd Osman will reach out to Roger Tilberg to determine if we need to confirm uniform coverage was applied accurately by contractor.
- **Requests to remove items:** Requesting approval to remove spirea plants, non-functional popcorn machine, and dangerous old toys from nursery. Approved by council.
- **Organ repair update:** Estimate has come in at \$1900. Several emails have been sent to provider to confirm warranty and arrange repair. No response to date.
- **Sidewalk repair:** City will be replacing sidewalk where tree roots are lifting sidewalk. Church will be responsible for cost of concrete, and city will cover installation.
- **Announcements in sign by highway:** Request for additional individuals to have access for highlighting events. Approved by council.

***Worship and Music** – Any support for covering choir and bells is requested while director has limited abilities. Plans are being made with outside musicians for Santa Lucia. Bell Toll beginning of services has been requested and tried in June. Lay readers will be in charge of contacting people for special music requests.

***Christian Education/Youth** – Gearing up for vacation bible school. Looking for leader to take on the responsibility for mission trip due to the transition of Pastor Sam Kautz previously covering this responsibility.

***Endowment** – No Update.

Old Business

- **Final edits review of Constitution, By-Laws, Continuing Resolutions & Support Documents.** Waiting on response from Synod. Jackie Lindvall will reach out to get updated status. No Update.
- **Update – Keys to church: Status of updated list of keys released and returned.** Continuing to review list to determine if additional keys need to be made. Council members have been received keys.
- **Update – Lay Delegate(s) to Synod Conference.** Colleen has been registered. Ron DeJong will be registering.
- **Other**

New Business

- **Discussion of Pastoral Transition Process:** Ron DeJong talked to Bishop Dee Pederson and Sayward Ask from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Office. Reviewed possible next steps in communication with the congregation and leaders for determining all possible options.
- **Dishes in the kitchen:** Main users of the kitchen met to discuss replacing old plates that are heavy to handle to be replaced with lighter dishware. Cost is anticipated to be approx. \$2,000 to be paid by S.O.S. Fund. Heritage Haven is willing to take old dishes. Motion was made by Colleen Kahler to purchase with S.O.S. funds. 2nd by Steve Heggstad. Motion carried.

Upcoming Dates/FYI

- **May 24th – 9:00am** Combined Holiday Service at UMC followed by fellowship
- **May 30th – 8:30-10:00am** The Table Community Breakfast
- **May 31st** – Pentecost Sunday Celebration
- **June 24th** – Salem Ice Cream Social
- **Each Tuesday 10:00am Salem Strombeck Room:** Salem Quilters open to all
- **Each Friday 10:00am Salem Strombeck Room:** Friday Morning Coffee open to all

Closing Prayer by Pastor Sam Krautz

Adjournment: Motion was made to adjourn by Kent Weckwerth 2nd Todd Osman Motion carried.

Next Meeting June 16th at 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Todd Osman