



**Council Meeting  
Monday, February 23, 2026**

**Call to Order:** 6:36 pm

**Establish a quorum/present:** Pastor Kjell Ferris, Laura Magnuson, Lindsey Cornell, Brian Gieseke, Dan Bishop, Matt Goldade, Nikki Sames, Cassie Olson, Debbie Church, Nate Borwege, and George Winn

**Devotion** by Pastor Kjell Ferris

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda and January Minutes** by Goldade, second by Bishop. Motion approved.

**President's Report:**

- **Endowment Committee Continuing Resolution & Funding Request**  
According to our Constitution, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council may vote to define the number of committee members. The following resolution is intended to address an administrative error this year, as our Nominating Committee sought 2 new members when only 1 was required. Since the congregation already approved the nominated members, the following **motion was made for a continuing resolution** by Steinhoff-Smith, seconded by Magnuson. Motion Approved.

“For the fiscal year 2026 the Endowment Fund Committee shall consist of the duly elected members at the 2026 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Meeting, and those members elected previously whose terms have not been completed,

Further, all members of the Endowment Fund Committee shall have voting privileges, and a quorum will be considered four (4) Endowment Fund Committee members or more.

Reference Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Constitution (July 2025) reference  
C5.05.01 a (Number of members)  
C5.05.02 b (Quorum)  
\*C18.02 (Continuing Resolutions)”

**Motion for two Endowment Committee grant requests** by Church, seconded by Bishop. Motion approved.

- o \$1000 to support Vail Communities, a non-profit providing community-based recovery services for adults with severe mental illness
- o \$1800 to Cristo Obrero for additional support above and beyond congregation's response to current needs to cover monthly expenses

- Resource Development Committee  
This committee is proposed to focus on cultivating generosity of both time and money within the Holy Trinity Congregation, i.e. supporting the annual stewardship drive, fundraising, to name a few.

**Motion to form the Resource Development Committee** by Cornell, seconded by Sames. Motion approved.

There will be an application/nomination process for committee membership, with final selection completed by the Council.

**Treasurer’s Report**

- NEXT Campaign Pledges:
  - 2023 Pledges Received: \$ 42,700.00
  - 2024 Pledges Received: \$715,725.08
  - 2024 Unpledged Received: \$241,650.92
  - 2025 Pledges Received: \$298,911.34
  - 2026 Pledges Received: \$ 58,323.27
  - **Total Received: \$1,357,311**

PLEDGES as of January 31, 2026	NEXT Campaign 2024 thru 2026
Total Pledged	\$1,252,399
Total Received	\$ 1,115,660
Remaining Pledges	\$136,739

Unpledged Gifts \$241,651  
 Organ & Chairs - \$196,000  
Remaining Gifts = \$45,651  
Land Proceeds + \$84,000  
**Total Add'l Funds = \$129,651**

Finances as of January 31, 2026	January Budget	January Actual
Revenue	\$60,105	\$42,891
Expenses	\$52,206	\$48,610
Revenue - Expenses	\$7,899	-\$5,719

Finances as of January 31, 2026	Year-to-Date Budget	Year-to-Date Actual
Revenue	\$60,105	\$42,891
Expenses	\$52,206	\$48,610
Revenue - Expenses	\$7,899	-\$5,719

**Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report** by Bishop second by Borwege. Motion approved.

### **Pastor Kjell's Report:**

- Urgent community need for Cristo Obero families for assistance resulted in Holy Trinity raising over \$9000.
- Continue to provide congregation support with resources and opportunity to connect/discuss persistent fears, anxiety, and confusion in this challenging environment. Visits are ongoing.
- Lent this year will focus on critical topics and seek actionable insights to support church renewal using the book, *Hungry for Hope, Letters to the Church from Young Adults*. Plan for two of the book authors to be guest preachers.  
The *Peace of the Prairie* liturgy, written by local artists Carol Meier and Meta Herrick Carlson, commissioned by Shalom Hill Farm will also be used.
- 2026 Vacation Bible School  
VBS program to suggest a freewill offering or propose sponsoring a child to help cover expenses
- Continuing Education
  - Synod Ministerium - (Jan 29) with keynote speaker, a Bonhoeffer scholar who laid out the connection between Christian Nationalism in the United States today and the rise of the Nazi party in pre-WWII Germany.
  - Embodied Antiracism Cohort meets twice monthly to deepen awareness of white cultural patterning in an effort to seek greater alignment with our commitments to equity and inclusion

### **New Business:**

- Welcoming Training for Council with Jan

### **Old Business:**

- Road Update – George Winn reported the remaining blacktop will be completed in the spring. (Note, funds are already held in escrow to cover the remaining blacktop.) George encouraged the council and congregation to pursue funding to complete the parking lot and expressed his support by initiating engineering plans.
- Call Committee – The committee conducted initial interviews and narrowed potential candidates to three for a second interview.
- Constitutional Observer Training

**Communicate to members that any member questions/concern can be sent to council email for reply.**

**Adjournment of Meeting at 8:45 pm:** Motion by Bishop, seconded by Borwege. Motion approved.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 16, 2026