

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 20th, 2026**

Council Meeting was called to order at 5:06

Members present; Sara Odden, Gina Nelson, Jayne Kraemer, Rodney Rice, and Troy Kilpatrick. Absent Zach Finley.

Staff present, Senior Pastor Tim O'Shields, Deacon Tom Martin, and Accounting Manager Tammy Drewitz.

- a. **Devotion** – Presented by Jayne - Proverbs 3 verses 5 and 6. Speaking to reliance on God for guidance. Trust the Lord to guide our path.
- b. **Establish Quorum** – Established
- c. **Approve December Minutes** – Motion to approve by Rod, 2nd by Gina. Approved unanimously.
- d. **Approve Agenda** – Approved by Consensus

**Reports**

- a. **Financials** – Tammy brought forward a recommendation from the Finance Committee. After some discussion and clarification, the following motions were made. Motion to close the Wells Fargo Investment account #5345-6316 was made. Rod made the motion and Gina 2<sup>nd</sup>. This motion was **approved unanimously**. In the discussion it was communicated that this account was created for the purpose of accepting appreciated stock donations. The account management could not be updated so therefore closed. Motion to open a new investment account that will allow for the acceptance of appreciated stock donations was made. Rod made the motion and Gina 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was **approved unanimously**.
- b. **December and year end** - Leading the way to a strong finish was \$200,595 in Undesignated Offerings. This was a very significant success as the average monthly amount is \$75,000. The final quarter for 2025 also exceeded the average of \$295,000 by coming in at \$324,000. Of note was the first installment of "Our Time" which launched close to a breakeven point. Additionally, Wednesday Meal Donations came closer to breakeven though not quite there. Combined all incomes came in at \$20,794 over year prior or a growth of 2.3%. **Expenses** for the month and year end included some planned for Quarterly expenses such as the Synod contribution. Additional unplanned for expense was Organ repairs at \$1000 and advice that we should commit to a more routine maintenance of this investment. The monthly expenses were up over the average by approximately \$9,000 but again the quarterly items in budget were accounted for and we came in below budget by over \$5,000. Year to date we came in under previous year (\$22,911 or 2.9%). All of this left us in a very strong fiscal position for 2025.

- c. Finance** – Recommendations came forward that with our positive year balance \$96,000 be moved to our MIF to help restore this balance. A motion was made by Rod and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina to move the funds accordingly. **Approved Unanimously.** A 2<sup>nd</sup> motion to move \$14,000 of the year end funds to be designated into a new account to support the forming Community and Outreach Committee. Motion made by Rod and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina. **Approved Unanimously.** The new committee will have funds that they can recommend to the Council to be directed to community non-profits and families. This \$14,000 will serve as the first budget in 2026.
- d. Deacon Tom** – Provided his last Council update before his pending retirement. Deacon Tom spent time discussing his role in listening to teens at the church this past week during difficult times. Calvary Council and the Church have been blessed to have Tom in this role. Actions like this will be hard to replace. We wish Tom and Deb the best of luck as they move forward in their life’s journey.
- e. Pastor Tim** – Provided a handout highlighting all the activities he has been engaged with regarding the team and moving the church forward. In addition to these challenges his energy is needed in other areas with the Synod, re-organizing Endowment and working with Stewardship. Plus, already the Lenten season nears and requires much time to organize. Also, of importance is working with Synod and our Call Committee in finding Deacon Tom’s replacement. Additionally, the conversation occurred regarding providing a going away gift for Tom. The following was discussed and approved.  
The Council **agreed by Consensus** to provide a gift to Tom on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for his Celebration a travel stipend equal to 2 weeks of his gross pay in recognition of his 20 years of service.  
Lastly much time was committed to the development and presentation of the Annual Report for the upcoming Annual Meeting set for Wednesday Evening, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Many of these talking points (and others) refined for presentation on that evening.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jayne and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rod – Approved Unanimously.  
Next Meeting – February 17<sup>th</sup> at Calvary – Rod volunteered for the Devotion.