American Lutheran Church
October Council Meeting
October 12, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by President Maureen Even. Present were Pastor Susan Friedrich, Maureen Even, Christy Phillips, Mike Waring, Cindy Gosse, Sara Borland, Mary Adams, and Sheila Collins. Connie Hamilton was absent.

Pastor Susan led devotions and prayer. The topic was how we can make a difference every day in little ways.

Sheila made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein has expressed an interest through the Synod in some form of partnership with ALC. Council had a lengthy discussion of the challenges and opportunities this presents. Pastor Susan will be a resource and advocate for ALC and will help us explore this decision. Maureen will contact Pastor Brackett of the NEIA Synod to see if Zion has made any other arrangements recently. If not, she and Pastor Susan will be available to meet representatives of their congregation for conversation. Further information for our congregation will be forthcoming.

Sara Borland left the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of September was $1,299.52.
There is a correction to the July and August memorial fund amount. Mary made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report as corrected. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – There was one edit to the September 14, 2026 Council meeting minutes by Pastor Susan. Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as edited. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Committee Reports
Hospitality – Fellowship is working well in the basement since October 1.

Parish Ed/Youth – There are 6-8 kids enjoying Worship Wednesdays. Pastor Susan will check on who is eligible to receive their third-grade Bibles.

Property/Technology – Stair step issues: Tape on the steps and a "Watch Your Step" sign have been placed in the balcony. Maureen will put nonslip paint on the outside steps.
The back door leading to the kitchen is in poor condition. Prices for a replacement door will be sought.

Scholarship – No report.

Worship and Music –Plans have been made for these upcoming dates:
October 25 Reformation Sunday
November 1 All Saints Sunday
November 29 Beginning of Advent
December 20 Sunday School Christmas Program
December 24 Christmas Eve worship times to be determined
December 27 Lessons and Carols Sunday (Pastor's Sunday off)

We will consider raising the accompanist's salary in the 2027 Budget.
Council discussed ways to encourage younger musicians in our congregation.

Call Committee – No report.

Pastor's Report – A "Dirty Feet Retreat" at Camp EWALU is planned for confirmation students. Two confirmation students have a temporary conflict with Wednesday night classes. Pastor Susan will meet with them briefly after worship on Sundays as well as providing materials for them to work independently. Pastor Susan attended the Fall Theological Conference in Cedar Falls last week. She will be giving a Holy Communion class on Saturday, October 24. All are welcome to attend. Pastor Susan attended the Jesup Ministerial Association meeting this month. Representatives of LifeWise Academy were there to continue to promote their religious instruction using school release time. Pastor will be relaying more information to our congregation on their proposal. Pastor Susan and Connie Hamilton made visits and calls to shut ins in the last month.

New Business
Vanco (online giving) and Realm (a comprehensive church management system) informational webinar is available October 27 at noon through the Synod.

Year to date giving statements accompanied by a letter from Pastor Susan will go out after October.

Staff Christmas gifts were discussed.

Christy made a motion to collect the noisy offering in November and December for Worship Wednesday youth. They will use this offering to fund their choices for ELCA Good Gifts. Second by Cindy. Motion carried.

Outgoing council member Mary Adams volunteered to join Dorothy Thompson on the nominating committee. Cindy made a motion to accept Mary as a member on the nominating committee. Second by Sheila. Motion carried. One more committee member is being sought.

Old Business
Cindy made a motion to give the Thanksgiving offering to the Independence Area Food Pantry. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Cindy will investigate getting new bookshelves for Pastor's office.

Correspondence
Thank you from Independence Area Food Pantry for the donation of 26.1 lbs. of food.
Thank you from the NEIA Synod for donations for the Postville fire recovery.
ELCA appeals.

Deacon Assignments for November
1 Mary Adams
8 Maureen Even
15 Sheila Collins
22 Mike Waring
29 Maureen Even

Sheila made a motion to adjourn. Second by Cindy. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Upcoming events: Next council meeting is November 9 at 6:30 pm.
Budget meeting dates will be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins, Secretary