

American Lutheran Church
PreCouncil Meeting and Council Meeting
February 9, 2026

A preCouncil meeting was held beginning at 5:15 pm to discuss the results of the cottage meetings and to set future goals. Present were Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly, Maureen Even, Sara Borland, Mary Adams, and Sheila Collins. Connie Hamilton joined at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Pat opened the meeting with devotions from Matthew 17 and led us in prayer.

There were many good suggestions from the cottage meetings. The main themes were discussed and the following goals established:

1. **Improved communication especially with young families/Worship enrichment.**
Sara will coordinate a monthly contemporary 9:00 am worship service beginning April 12. The Worship and Music Committee will work on ways to make worship more inclusive.
2. **Intentional Welcome.**
The Hospitality Committee will work on ways to welcome new members (follow up correspondence) and new ways to encourage fellowship.
3. **Engagement/Outreach.**
Council will work on social events outside of worship that also include the local community. Examples: game nights, movie nights, occasional Be Our Guest meals, potlucks, youth events.

At 6:30 the general Council meeting began. Pat Winblade joined the meeting to discuss the Scholarship funding addressed in the December 8, 2025 Council minutes. After discussion, Sara made a motion to amend the funding as follows: If there is one applicant, they will receive the college's maximum match, not to exceed \$1200.00. If there are two or more applicants, the \$1200.00 budgeted amount will be split equally or to the Scholarship Committee's discretion. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report Sara made a motion to approve the January 12, 2026 minutes as written and to approve the February 1, 2026 minutes with the amendment to committee assignments made by Pastor Pat. (Connie Hamilton to Hospitality and Mary Adams to Worship and Music). Second by Pastor Pat. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report The checking account balance at the end of January was \$8,372.53. Since the balance is under \$10,000 no transfer will be made to the General Savings Fund. Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Sheila. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed/Youth – Some help with Wednesday night worship is being sought. There are five students in confirmation class. Four will be confirmed on Mother's Day May 10, 2026. The students' faith statements need to be approved by council prior to that date.

Property/Technology The elevator is still waiting on software to fix the call button on the lower level. The Property Committee will be asked to investigate the cost of replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and maintenance on the bell.

Scholarship - See above.

Worship and Music – Hymn choices are being made. Organist coverage is being planned until Shirley Bergman's return. In the coming weeks, we need to evaluate the continuation of the 4:00 pm service due to low attendance.

Call Committee – They have sent questions for council concerning updating the Ministry Site Profile. Maureen will contact Pastor Brackett of the NE Iowa Synod about the time frame for the potential new interim Pastor.

Pastor's Report – Sara will take over the 4:00 pm service so Pastor can go home on Sunday afternoon, except when she stays over for the council meeting on the second Monday of the month.

New Business

- Lenten and Easter offering envelopes will be designated as 50% to the Independence Area Food Pantry and 50% to the Jesup Ministerial Association.
- Mary made a motion to accept the lawn mowing bid from Maxwell Kopplin to mow both the church and the parsonage lawns for a total of \$50.00 per mowing. Second by Connie. Motion carried. Maureen will let him know.
- Motion by Mary to continue collecting the noisy offering for the next three weeks to give to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Waterloo to help with their water damage caused by broken pipes. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Chapter 5 of *Discovering Hope* concerned evangelism.
- Fellowship is covered through March 8 by online sign up (set up by Sara).

Correspondence ELCA appeal to combat world hunger.

Deacon Assignments for March

- 1 Mary Adams
- 8 Maureen Even
- 15 Connie Hamilton
- 22 Sheila Collins (Connie Reader)
- 29 Sheila Collins

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Sara made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sheila. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary