

November 12, 2025 Council Meeting

Present: Moderator Bob Brandemuehl, Moderator-Elect Kay Rowntree, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Janine Coley, Jamie Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts

Absent: Treasurer Jean Bocker, Karla Pennington

Rae-Ellen opened us in prayer.

Pastor Mark led us in **Devotional Time** about John 13 - loving one another. We need to remember to speak gently and to encourage people.

Approval of October Council minutes. Janine moved and Sue seconded to approve the October minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Budget Meeting Agenda. We requested that Bob mention at Sunday's Business meeting that the next 2026 Budget won't include 10% Missions due to an abundance of money still in the Missions fund. Rae-Ellen asked who was going to talk to Triskill and the Agape Counselor to increase their rent by 3%. Mark volunteered to talk to them. Rae-Ellen moved and Janine seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried.

New Business:

Semi-Annual Business Meeting Nov 16th discussion. We do not need a quorum of members at the meeting to vote. But we do need 75% of the votes of members at the meeting in order to sell the parsonage property. Bob asked for the list of members for Sunday. Mark will ask Judi to provide the Council with a list of members.

Parsonage Sale - Pros & Cons - We discussed how we can best present the sale of the parsonage to the membership. Our talking points will be the recent survey & the Council's recommendation, as well as the fact that most pastors want to buy their own homes in order to get equity, and the fact that we don't want to be landlords.

Lightning Strike of Bell Tower - Bob is getting a quote tomorrow from the Master Electrician. Our insurance company wants 2 quotes. Rae-Ellen will contact another electrician. There is a disconnect from the breaker box downstairs to the power in the office area. The bell tower was also struck 3 ½ years ago. There must be a problem with the lightning rods not working properly. We have a replacement cost insurance policy. Everything that was connected to the WiFi fried. Joanne got a repair quote from Mark Snyder for the organ, and the Allen Organ company wants to replace the organ. Janine mentioned replacing the Bell Tower. Bob is concerned that we need to do something with the Bell Tower, because it is a hazard. We need to ground the tower. We need to get 2 concrete quotes, too. Rae-Ellen will do that.

Sanctuary Sound System - We need to ground the sound system. Zoom is back up and running. Mark's friend came to work on it, and declined to charge us. Thanks to Mark's friend!

Elevator - It didn't work when we tried to bring up things for the Celebration of Music coffee hour. The Linus group also had problems. Jamie Brandemuehl got stuck in it twice. It is irresponsible of us to continue to use the elevator. Rae-Ellen got 4 bills from Express Elevator and wonders what all the bills are for. We need to replace the elevator. Can we use Memorial money to buy a new one? Sale of the Parsonage? \$100,000 gift? We have money to use. This is an elevette (baby elevator) lift. Rae-Ellen will get a bid.

Long Range Planning Committee - Resurrect? It has been resurrected. The committee includes Janine, Jean, Jamie, Rae-Ellen, and Sue. They are planning to meet with Jim Filicetti and they are waiting for Jean to get back from her hip surgery.

Anything from the floor? We are going to do Christmas cards for the Shut-ins as a congregation.

Jamie asked about the Nominating Committee. It is on the back of the Business meeting packet. We need a replacement director for Congregational Care. Kay suggested that we combine Christian Ed and Congregational Care.

Bob needs to invite Ryan Venema (Moderator-Elect 2026) and Brad Charles (Missions 2026) to come to the December Council meeting.

Old Business: none.

Next meeting: December 10, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Closing Prayer - Pastor Mark

Adjournment. Janine moved and Joanne seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

November 2025 Directors' Reports

Christian Ed – Sue Roberts

Sue is looking into finding nursery care for the Christmas Eve 4 PM service.

Congregational Care – Janine Coley

Fellowship Team – We hosted the 40th Celebration of Music on Sunday, November 2nd. This will be the last Celebration of Music, unless someone steps up to continue the tradition.

On November 30th, we sang carols with the Linden residents. It was very well attended!

In December, we have the Mukwonago Area Community Choir Christmas concert on Friday, December 5th, the Grace Notes Symphony Orchestra & Choir Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14th. More info about these concerts is in the What's Happening.

On December 21, we will be meeting at the church around 4 PM, and we will be car pooling to sing carols at the homes & residences of several of our shut-ins.

Hospitality & Welcome Team – nothing to report.

Property & Grounds – Rae-Ellen Preuss

I have nothing to report this month. We are still dealing with the fall out of last month's lightning strike.

But I do want to say thank you to everyone who stepped up to help during the aftermath.

Thanks to Bob Brandemuehl for taking over to find a master electrician to assess our outages.

Thanks to Pastor Mark for being the point person to coordinate the list of damage and to work on the AV system. Thanks to Joanne for working to find repair for the organ. I'm sure there are others, but I don't have a complete list. At any rate, thank you!

Thanks also to Joanne, Janine, Kay and the WAG group for handling the funeral meal while I was gone. I know everything went well..it always does when we do the Lord's work to serve our church family.

My trip was planned way back in April, so there was no changing my plans. But we have a very loving, caring church family. And I know everyone worked together. I am also grateful for the help from our new members who assisted with the funeral meal.

Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough to say. I am so very blessed to call all of you my church family.

Blessings!

Rae-Ellen