

Hope Lutheran Council – Monday March 16, 2026

Call to Order: 5:05 PM by Council President Clint Mack

Present: Clint Mack, Kelly Lorenz, Angie Newton, Sara Gavert, Bonnie Carlson, Diane Hessler, Chris Fuhrman, Erik Aamlid, Steve McClellan, Lynda Schaumburg, Pastor Matt Cordes.

Devotions: Kelly Lorenz

Agenda: Approved with the addition of one new business item – Clarification on having adult chaperones for Montana trip

Minutes: of February 22, 2026, meeting approved without changes.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

Financial Reports: Written and oral reports were provided by Bonnie Carlson. There were no issues to discuss. Offering amounts were higher than usual as were utilities costs. Angie Newton confirmed that gas and electric accounts are on a monthly budget plan. The financial report was approved.

Deacons Report: A written copy of the Mar 8, 2026, Deacons Board Minutes was provided, and oral report was given by Lynda Schaumburg. She reported that Wednesday Lenten services have been well attended. She asked for discussion on options for Father's Day rather than root beer floats; and if a service in the park was something to consider. Pastor Matt suggested that, because of weather concerns and communicating location at the last minute, the park may not be advisable. We could plan for an outside service on church grounds and easily move inside if weather necessitated.

BOYEM: Chris Fuhrman confirmed that discussions are ongoing how BOYEM fits as it relates to their duties compared to the duties of paid staff. Paid staff will be planning the volunteer appreciation event. He also asked what their role was going forward in financial budgets and providing requests to Council. Clint Mack mentioned that those issues would be part of an item of New Business to follow later in the meeting. Erik Aamlid added that First Communion was moved to March 22 due to weather cancellation on March 15. The Holy Week retreat is also planned for March 22 from 4 – 6 PM and an all-generations planting activity will be at 10:30 in the fellowship hall on the 22nd as well. Fourteen youth have signed up for the Montana trip, and 21 youth are going to Green Lake/Waters Edge.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Steve McClellan reported that their budget is on track. New thermostats are to be controlled by an app and can be set from the app without being at church. Danielle Tieben continues to look for a white board that can use magnets. Because Sunday bulletins no longer contain merchant advertising, which generated approximately \$4,000 in income, other

ways to incorporate ads were discussed. Further discussion was tabled until we have a plan and format to present to merchants.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Matt feels Lenten services have good energy and good turnout. He reported that the mentor program is going well and the Constitution and Strategic Planning committees' progress is good. He asked for discussion on whether the two Easter services at 9:00 and 10:30 should be the same service or if the music should be different. After discussion it was decided that Pastor Matt would reach out to the band to see if they are available to play at 10:30.

OLD BUSINESS:

Constitution Committee Update: Clint Mack reported that the committee is working on cleaning up some of the verbiage in the Constitution and then plan to get into the Bylaws. The goal is to have more detail in the Bylaws in an attempt for create space and flexibility. The goal is to have a draft to present in summer.

Strategic Plan Survey: Pastor Matt reported that the committee had a productive meeting and will base the Plan on Hope's Mission Statement – GATHER – focusing on first experiences at Hope and elevating the congregational experience. GROW – elevate education and, GO – elevate our service to the community. The plan is to organize small groups to further discuss each of the three areas.

Building Rental: Trustees met with Ivan Davnii, Site Manager and James Biffert, Pastor of Bethels' Rock, an Assembly of God church. The church would like to use the sanctuary, narthex, board room, and a room to the right of the bottom of the stairs. A motion was made and approved to have the Trustees draft an agreement on rent to be paid and limitations to use of facilities and sound systems.

NEW BUSINESS: Council provided guidance as to BOYEM's role during the period the Constitution and Bylaws are being revised to ensure that those documents support a structure that fits our congregation. BOYEM will take the lead in Adult Education and activities, CYF will provide monthly reports to BOYEM and manage youth funds within budgeted items. CYF will bring financial reports and requests to the Council but will not be voting on those requests.

HS Montana Trip: Four parents have shown interest in chaperoning the Montana trip with Erik and Leah Aamlid. Further fundraising ideas were discussed.

Adjourned: at 7:35 PM concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Hesselund, Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5 pm. Devotional by Angie Newton