

King of Kings Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
June 23, 2026

Attendance

Members in Person:

Chris Gandhi, President
Jen McKinnon, Executive Council
Kevin Rosemann, Executive Council
John Wadie, Member at Large
Kevin Schwartz, Finance
Pastor Jon Larson, Lead Pastor
Pastor Amelia Houdek, Associate Pastor
Dianne Johnson, Executive Director
Tami Olson, Secretary

Members Absent/Excused:

Meisha Berg, Member-at-Large
Jen Krumrie, Treasurer

Guests: none

The meeting was called to order at **6:30** by Chris Gandhi, presiding.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Jon

Approval of prior months Meeting Minutes - Chris/ Tami

Jen moved to accept the meeting minutes.

John seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.26.06.17)

Approval of Agenda - Chris

Jen moved to accept the meeting agenda.

Kevin R. seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.26.06.18)

Role of Council:

We empower staff, committees and volunteers to make the necessary day-to-day operational ministry decisions. The role of Church Council therefore is to focus on more strategic visioning that will seek to further enhance and move the ministry forward.

Guest Presentation: Pam Hoeffel – Community Engagement Coordinator **Postponed**

Orientation: Note: Will continue to discuss cover at future meetings

1. Binders
 - a. Focus Area: Constitution Overview / Role of Council
 - b. Upcoming Focus Area: Investment Policy Overview

Old Business:**1. Financial Report – Kevin Schwartz**

- a. May revenue: 1,104,677, Budget 915,723, we are good by 98,944.
- b. Year to date expenses 850,784 a negative 67, 680.
- c. Net surplus when we add in investment 105,340.
- d. Income 125,000 above last year does not include the parking lot.
- e. Jen's forecast keeps us positive, looking back at last year we were negative at this time. It is amazing.
- f. At the end of May, a cash balance is comparable to last year if we take out parking lot expenses.
- g. Chris asked, we did not do a fundraiser for second half of parking lot.
- h. Dianne, it did not seem fair with our cash on hand.
- i. Jen M. commented we do not want to lose members in potholes.
- j. Kevin, we want to be strategic.
- k. Pastor Amelia, a question at new member class someone asked how we fund projects.
- l. Meisha did a really great job at the new member class.

2. Organ Update (Waiting for the arrival of the pipes)

- a. Dianne, pipes shipping this week, should have in about 2 months, they included video for the base for the pipes. They are on their way!
- b. Jen has there been talk on how Jim is going to incorporate them, does he have dreams?
- c. Dianne said we have an organist who wants to do a concert.

3. Update on LED Screen Project – (Note Update in Executive Director Report)

- a. At the beginning of July 12, we went with The Bald Guys, they are working in conjunctions with Collins, first week all electrical, then next week installing screens. A two-week project.
- b. Chris asked if there would be any disruptions.
- c. Pastor Amelia said working on schedule and July 11th Jakes wedding.

4. Financial Audit (Comparison of Current Process and Formal Audit Process)

- a. Dianne has Insurance CPA and individual CPAs working on comparison.

Strategic Planning Update**1. Engagement – Pastor Amelia, Tami, John**

- o *E4 Strategy (Encourage, Engage, Equip and Empower) – Internal Language*
- o Building Connection, Growing Community (2026-2027 Strategy)
 - **Photo population for CHMS – Key Initiative (Baptism, Education, New Member)**
 - a. Pastor Jon, pieces in red, internal language, how are we populating photos. Anytime we have an opportunity to capture a photo to be proactive. Once we have access as a congregation people can update their own photo.
 - b. Pastor Amelia passed out a handout "Congregational Engagement Inventory, Initial Findings:
 - c. Pastor Amelia, we embarked on an inventory, have them enter in data.
 - d. I feel really good about what we got back, not sure if we got 50+ Group.
 - e. I am here to start the conversation of the findings, note for tonight no recommendations. This is to help with conversations going forward. This data is only reflective of data that was input, started in May and uploaded by June 10th.

- f. I am excited to see what numbers are next year.
- g. Broad stretch, trying to keep what we are measuring consistent.
- h. Pastor Amelia 70 are 50 or over. It's an observation.
- i. Pastor Amelia said kids are not included.
- j. A beginning snapshot on where we are going.
- k. Make a distinction on who are leaders vs participating.
- l. See page four leadership vs participation. Matters, participation is where people are connected, leadership who is carrying responsibility. Who are we raising up. Pastor Ameila this is not under my portfolio, it Helping me understand – how do people stay engaged. That is a whole different connection.
- m. What we learned on page five.
- n. That does not mean we have work to do and how we engage those under fifty how they are a valued part of the community.
- o. Jen, what ministries do you keep or develop?
- p. Pastor Amelia said at this stage a clear picture of congregation life.
- q. Pastor Amelia said how do we engage, different generation engage differently, how you live into to future,
- r. Jen with the people only in one ministry,
- s. Pastor Amelia great question, to see where people are engaged.
- t. Chris, it is more applicable from kids and parents.
- u. Pastor Amelia, moving forward my Project management plan, I would like to do two more presentations, page 5/6 my starting graphics. Next presentation not in July in August I am on vacation, in September different engagement pathways and how do we keep them engaged. How do we get those not involved in church life. Involved, I would like to work with small groups, I want that group not to be more than ten I want cross generational, those not involved at all. The voices around the table, What I see is different than what they experience day to day think about offering up to people.
- v. In Oct-Nov-Dec. 3 areas of engagement we can work with. Around how we are incorporating new members and keeping them as new members. Provide actual ministry practice we can measure.
- w. Then in January to live in three areas we will have leadership, good base to move forward.
- x. Chris asked, "Do we want to keep congregational engagement under growth?"
- y. Pastor Amelia for those who are coming here, where are we providing spaces for them to know GOD.

o Gospel Hospitality – Transforming Ordinary Interactions into Extraordinary Experiences)

2. Growth – Jen, Meisha

- o Congregational Engagement
 - a. Jen, a project I am working on a reimagining of the common area out front in an effort to create new community space, new visible information, I have been talking to different staff and talking to Jill Hartwig how do we use that space to feel comfortable, clean what the church stand for new exciting and fresh, looking at what new churches are doing, creating warmth.
 - b. Pastor Amelia said I want people to feel held.

- c. Chris said we want to create areas to feel welcoming. Maybe a couple of weeks, changing things out. Do phases, for me that is falling under growth. If they are here, they will get involved.
- o Children and Student Engagement
 - Education
- o Evangelism/Outreach and Marketing
 - New Residents
- o Retired Men/Men's Ministry – Kevin R
- 3. **Giving** (Seeking to leverage current giving baseline) – **Dianne, Kevin S**
 - o Stewardship / Legacy (Faith forward: Building Today and Investing in Tomorrow)
 - § Team to be identified
 - d. Dianne, what is last year to this year (Dianne) by age, we will have a stronger base line to go from.
 - e. Pastor Amelia, and that is a critical marker of engagement. I cannot wait to see.
 - f. Dianne, I am waiting for June to close to see if trend is in the same direction, the people turning 73 will grow, and what happens. The more
 - g. Kevin, seeing all the data here from Pastor Amelia. We need to educate.
 - h. Kevin R. added that might be a topic for retired men's.
 - i. Pastor Amelia, we are going to discover some interesting information that might color how we minister and I am excited.
 - j. Kevin Jason and Todd have talked about ideas, which is the fun part.
- 4. **Community Engagement – Chris**
 - a. Chris, Pam does a fabulous job, she is doing a lot with the school's kudos to her, last week there were only 4 of us including Pam, a lot of people want to help.
- 5. **Security – Dianne, Kevin R**
 - o Grant Process – On hold due to Federal funding.
 - a. Dianne – I have 3 looking to do assessments.
 - o Staff and Congregation Training (Playbook)
 - b. Chris, anything, Kevin, I will be involved on the walkthrough.
 - c. Kevin, how do we engage, what does it look like to have men's ministry?
 - d. Pastor Amelia, when I set the dates new members lunch, for 26/27 I added the Wednesday and Sunday, so we can engage parents already dropping off kids. It could be a very good thing.
 - e. Kevin, on the retired men's side, we listened to the Fire Chief, I know we do Kowalski's, it seems disconnected, I will talk to leadership. How do we add more faith-based format, maybe we involve those closer to retirement.

Chris asked if there was any new business. None

- a. Kevin R. commented on WhatsApp, the global connection video good connections.
- b. Jen, I like the new name connection community.
- c. Jen, Pastor Amelia, you talked about the prayer ministry.
- d. Kevin R., I never knew we had a card ministry.
- e. Pastor Amelia if you have greeting cards or parts of them, you can drop them off. They will use them.
- f. Chris, that makes me think, maybe in the bulletin do a “did you know section”.
- g. Pastor Amelia, you are invited and if you are intered in what prayer team is talked about or best practices, 3rd Wednesday of month at 4:00, I want you to know you are welcome and the team asked to invite you.

Monthly Staff Updates:

- a. Pastor Amelia said the interns are great.
- b. Dianne, it is great to see young adults, a huge success. Creating a bond.
- c. Pastor Amelia, the younger boys just flock around Cam. It is good energy.
- d. Chris, can I go back to the mowers? Dianne?
- e. Dianne we are going to do inhouse. Right now, custodial staff is gung ho. We are excited. This also has a plow attachment.
- f. Pastor Jon said getting interview for next week for Laurels position, changed the titile, shift with intentionality of position.

“On our Radar”

1. Security (In Discussion – Walkthrough Grant Process)
2. Security System – Enhancement and Modernization
3. Staffing Status

Upcoming Council Meetings

1. July 14 – 5:45 PM – Exec. Team Meeting (As needed)
2. July 21 – 6:30 PM - Council Meeting – Pastor Amelia gone July meeting.

Council In Action

Sunday Morning Presence – **Ministry of Presence**, Leverage pre and post worship connection points understanding that personal connections make a significant impact. (Simply put, stick around and say “Hi”)

Approval to adjourn Meeting.

Jens moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kevin R. seconded the motion.

Motion passed (CC.26.06.19)

Adjourn Meeting - Chris

The meeting was adjourned **at 7:42 pm**

Closing Prayer & Prayer Requests by Pastor Amelia

Appendix A: Staff Reports

June 2026 STAFF UPDATES

Pastor Jon

Leadership:

- Slight pivot in wording from original “Building Connection, Growing Community” theme as outlined in March to **“Creating Connection, Building Community.”**
- Theme for the Year is **“Creating Connection, Building Community”** The goal is to have each ministry area focus on this direction as we plan and implement ministry. How are we connecting with those that God has placed in our care from education to worship and everything in between.

Stewardship:

- Began working on the initial stages of the 2026/2027 Stewardship campaign which will once again coincide with the theme of **“Creating Connection, Building Community.”** As part of this year’s campaign, there will be mini devotions to help foster a time of personal reflection.

Worship:

- The Fall Series has been completed. Working title “Serve it up.” This series aligns with our overall theme **“Creating Connection, Building Community”** which you will see utilized in our Stewardship campaign. This series will provide a framework for our upcoming “Connection Weekends” where we highlight King of Kings ministries. We will identify which ministry areas are best aligned for which weekends and determine how to best promote each ministry area by leveraging small bistro tables and a “menu” style service pamphlets/promotion card. Connection weekends will be held in September (possibly into October) based on need.
- Currently working on Advent / Christmas Series and devotional base on “Christmas Cards” as well as the Lenten /Easter Sermon Series and devotional surrounding the various meals of the Bible which will bring us from Ash Wednesday through Easter. Due to the nature and scope of these projects it is a significant undertaking both in terms of time and energy.
- Preaching through the Letters of Paul – Sermon Series post Easter tentative (on the back burner).
- With the installation of the LED screens this will have an impact on how Children’s Messages are presented.
- Working on solidifying preaching cadence for Fall (Sept - Nov)

General:

- Officiated a Funeral Service on June 16 and weddings on June 20 and 27.
- Working with Michael on revised curriculum and cadence for Confirmation.

Pastor Amelia

Congregational Care:

- Visitation: Visitation ministry is looking for ways to live into the theme for 2026/2027 “Creating Connection, Building Community”. The question we are asking is “in what ways can we be more proactive in building relationships and connections with those who aren’t necessarily in need of visitation, per se, but are opportunities to create connections

now?” Currently there is energy around following through with a call ministry to all of our 70+ members to simply ‘check in’.

- Prayer: Prayer ministry is on a journey of exploring the difference between purpose/mission and tactics. Our anchor statement for the next couple of months is *Prayer Formation cultivates a sustained sense of wonder toward god and God’s activity in our lives*. I have also emphasized that the prayer ministry is not about events, but rather helping people in all times and all places recognize the presence of God. Events are one way we help people. For events the prayer ministry team and all who are interested in praying for King of Kings meets 1 time per month. Council presence is welcome! We will be adding blessing stations on a monthly or bi-monthly basis on Sunday mornings. Currently we are planning on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Start date TBD. Also, the prayer team and those who are interested in praying before the 4th of July are encouraged to participate on Saturday June 27th.

All council members are welcome and encouraged to attend our prayer team meetings which are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:00pm. To know that our council supports this ministry is highly important. Another way to support this ministry is to email me with requests that you might have as leaders and members of King of Kings and the team will pray specifically around your needs and celebrations.

- Support Groups: We currently have 2 support groups at King of Kings. We have the Cancer Support group led by Vickie Conley and Jeff Johnson and we have the grief group led by Cheryl Bennerotte and Carrie Mortrud. Both seem to be meeting needs of our members and members of the general community. Please pray for those who could find support with either group have the courage to reach out.
- Card Ministry: through the Congregational Engagement Inventory I have learned that our Card Ministry is much larger than I first thought! That was a delightful surprise. This ministry is essential to ‘creating connections, building relationship’. You can support this ministry by bringing the cards you have received but are ready to toss to the church. Place them on the reception desk or in the Card Ministry bin.

Congregational Engagement:

- New Member Revamp: We had a wonderful Membership Class on Jun 14, 2026. Thank you to [Meisha Berg](#) for being our guest host. One thing I learned from that experience is that having a council member present is meaningful to those who attend. Please let me know if you are interested in hosting 1 of the New Member Events in 2026/2027. It is pretty easy. All you need to do is put out the food. Engage those who attend. Participate in the conversation. Clean up. And it really helps me out!
- Congregational Engagement Inventory Update: see presentation

Worship:

- Creating Visual Connection During Worship. I am truly becoming more aware how important it is for our weekly worship attenders to have visuals that tell the story of the church, or the theme of the day, or the liturgical season. Not everyone is an audible learner. I am asking the question: what can we do to add visual connection and relationship to our worship space? Not just behind the altar but on the side walls as well. Thank you to

Meisha for dreaming with me a little bit on how to use some art work to the panels behind the altar. An another note, Jo Radthke is on a quest to procure updated and fresh

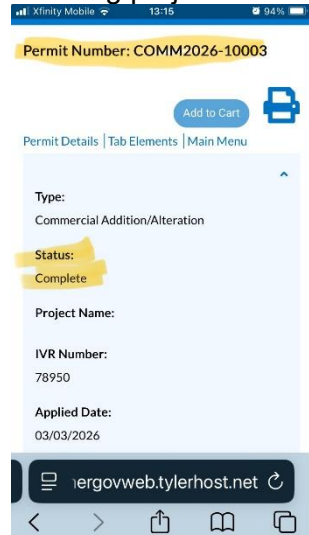
paraments for the altar and the pulpit. We will be taking a field trip in the near future to look at some inspirations at other churches.

- I attended a wedding recently where no service order (bulletin) was handed out. It was a liturgical wedding and the cantor was in the balcony behind the assembly. I was reminded “Why Bulletins Still Matter” in terms of Gospel Hospitality. I also was reminded that seeing the vocal lead (cantor) and other worship leaders becomes essential for people to engage in worship. Leadership, leadership, leadership.

Community Engagement Story:

Dianne Johnson

- Garage has been completed; deeply appreciative of Larry Hagen’s leadership in this amazing project.



- Parking lot has been completed.
- We had to replace another section of the sprinkler system piping as it developed two leaks- compressor is now running only sporadically and not continually.
- Organ pipes are getting ready to ship from Italy. Please see the link below that describes the pipe support system. The crates will be trucked from Padua to a nearby seaport, loaded into an ocean container and shipped across the Atlantic, entering a port on the east coast. Once the containers clear US Customs, they will be transferred to rail or truck for the trip to King of Kings.
<https://www.rodgersclassicorgans.com/king-of-kings-woodbury-mn-rodgersruffatti-organ-project.html>
- LED screen construction will occur the week of July 13th with Two Bald Guys handling the wall reinforcement and Collins the electrical work required. Jake will be taking the lead along with Ryan Sieler in the actual placement of the screens once the preliminary work is complete. Big shout out to Jake in handling this project along with planning his wedding on July 11th. Congratulations Jake and Emily!
- With the Sanctuary being unavailable during this time, American Girl Camp will take place in the MPR- we are updating the projector in this room in order to make it more usable for this camp and Michael is hoping to move Wednesday night confirmation from the Sanctuary to this space, as well.
- We continue to research the possibility of replacing only sections of the sprinkler system piping in order to get this up and operational by July.

- A donor purchased a lawn mower and a riding mower for the church (now that we have a garage) in order for us to save costs with an outside contractor. The cost for mowing has gone from \$250/week to \$450/week. I am looking forward to taking my turn :)
- We have an amazing summer staff of young adults working with us this year:
 - Olivia Meverden- Marketing Intern
 - Cam Clarke- CSF summer help
 - Lila Krumrie- office help and all around ministry support
 It is a joy to see them all connect, become friends and enjoy all the parts of King of Kings!
- Remember your documents this Saturday from 8:30-10:30; it will be wonderful to have a large impact for Basic Needs and to have documents securely destroyed.
- In the next couple weeks, we will have 3 different security companies come out to give us an appraisal and quote on what is needed to update our security system at the church.
- I have reached out to a couple CPA firms to work with Church Mutual to examine the difference between the audits conducted at church in order to have a clear comparison.
- We continue to search for a Holy Grounds manager.
- 2 candidates may be interested in the Worship Coordinator positions, currently shadowing to get a clearer idea of what the position entails. They will then meet with Pastor Amelia for a formal interview.
- Looking at the week of September 14th to hold our first AED, CPR and Basic First Aid certification class; yet, I need to determine the best timing with staff.

Laurel Bornholtz

- Enjoyed a visit with my daughter in NYC.
- Met with Tami Olson, Isabelle Hammond and Olivia Meverden to talk about marketing and communications for the Fall Festival (dinner) and 50s+ events. We focused on recruiting new people to help run the Fall Festival on event day and inviting the empty nester demographic to step into connecting in a new way. This partners well with Pastor Amelia's congregational engagement inventory.
- Attended King's Sisters June salad luncheon/speaker.
- 20 women are signed up for the God's GALs summer study, *In His Name* by Jen Wilkin.
- Will be meeting with Isabelle and the 2026-27 co-leaders for MomCo (Monica Fahnhorst and Hannah Rolfs). We'll be discussing how to effectively share the message about MomCo and extend welcome to the group hosted at King of Kings.
- Balancing Sundays at the Welcome Desk and visiting with members along with time with family at the lake.
- Retirement is coming up quickly - just a little more than 4 months from now.

Paula Arland

- In the midst of transforming our space into Rainforest Falls VBS. Excited to have the students and adults in the building to help with various projects.
- Grateful for Cam's presence this summer. He is learning a lot and making a contribution not just through building waterfalls but connecting with kids. Check out his prayer wall to on the north wall.
- Continue planning American Girls Camp
- Worked with Olivia and Jake on a Camp Wapo video to help our campers have a more successful week at camp.
- Looking to the fall

Michael Carmack

1. Phenomenal bacalaureate - might have been a little late in the season...look at moving sooner in the spring?
2. Wrapping up planning around ServeCamp...going to be a great week!
3. Planning our mission trip training stuff coming up - we have 19 students and 3 adults headed out to Idaho to serve
4. Already thinking about next summers trip and HS activities - thinking about heading out East....nothing for sure at the moment...wanting to get through this year...
5. Thinking about next fall programming...starting some big conversations, dreaming and wondering...

Isabelle Hammond

The past few weeks have been a time of excitement and adjustment for me! I've been gradually showing Olivia, our marketing intern, different parts of my ministry area. She has been a fast learner and huge help, especially providing extra support to the Bacalaureate displays, Vacation Bible School prep, Shred & Share branding, and social media video editing.

I'm looking forward to a couple of more elaborate social media posts coming up, including capturing video content at a Community Dinner and Skoolie event.

We are also tackling the "New to King of Kings?" page on the website to create a stronger strategy around the welcome video and included content on the page. We are working to find a balance of including plenty of information and SEO words while still maintaining the feeling of a welcoming invitation.

Jake Pickett

Pam Hoeffel

Wrapped up the Basic Needs School Food Rescue with 21 tons of food from 23 schools. This summer we are picking up from 10 schools.

June 16th, we served at our first Skoolie event of the summer. I'm reminded of what a blessing it is to gather together and serve our community. What a compliment it is when families ask us if we will be back next week. Thursday, June 25th will be our next Skoolie event at Armstrong Elementary.

Blood Mobile was a huge success on June 8th. We collected 59 pints of blood.

I received a video on Whats App from Pastor Slibira Lihweuli in Kilolo. She shared the progress they are making on the evangelist home. The resolution is poor so I was unable to share the video with the congregation. I look forward to sharing it with you in the future. The mission outreach team and I will be having a zoom meeting with Kilolo at the end of July. We can add others that are interested in this zoom meeting and connection.

Planning the welcome and time with Daudi Msseemmaa our East African missionary. He will be giving the message in worship on Sunday, August 2nd.

Community Dinners continue to be a blessing. We will be hosting a dinner on July 2nd. I continue to hear from the SoWashCo Senior center that our dinners are a highlight for the seniors in our community.

It was fun to see a family that attends our Community dinner at the Skoolie night. Friendships made. Connections made.

Saturday - Shred and Share event:)

Andrea Villanueva