

**King of Kings Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Minutes**  
**February 17, 2026**

**Attendance**

Members in Person:

Jen McKinnon, Executive Council  
Jason Livingston, Executive Council  
Chris Gandhi, Executive Council  
Meisha Berg, Member-at-Large – arrived at 6:37  
Rebecca Kurtz Schwanke, Member at Large  
Kevin Schwartz, Finance  
Jen Krumrie, Treasurer  
Pastor Jon Larson, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Amelia Houdek, Associate Pastor  
Dianne Johnson, Executive Director

Members Absent/Excused:

Tami Olson, Secretary

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at **6:30** by Jen McKinnon, presiding.

**Opening Prayer** – Pastor Jon

**Approval of November Meeting Minutes**

Jen moved to accept the meeting minutes.

Rebecca seconded the motion.

**Motion passed (CC.26.02.06)**

**Approval of Agenda**

Jen moved to accept the meeting agenda.

Jason seconded the motion.

**Motion passed (CC.26.02.07)**

**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:** None

**Old Business:**

**1. Financial Report: Jen Krumrie**

- a. Jen Krumrie said we do not have year-to-date comparisons at this time, as 2026 budget has not been adopted.

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

- a. Dianne said, waiting on pipes with arrival anticipated in June.
- b. Speaker installation is complete.

**Strategic Planning Update (If Applicable):** No discussion

1. Engagement
2. Growth
3. Giving (Seeking to leverage current giving baseline)

**New Business:****1. 2026 Annual Meeting – February 22, 2026, at 12:15 pm**

- a. Dianne shared the draft presentation for the Annual Meeting and the presenter’s responsibilities.
- b. There were no comments from the Council.
- c. The election process was discussed. Since none of the seats are contested positions at this time, the election will be a voice vote unless there are write-in candidates added the day of the meeting.
  - i. **Nominating Committee / Council positions to be filled:**
    - One Executive Council member 3-year term
    - One Member at Large position 2-year term
    - One Finance Chair Position 3-year term

**Community Engagement****1. Chris has been meeting with Pam regarding various community engagement programs and**

activities. There are eight members on the Community Engagement Team.

- a. Basic Needs: Involvement with Basic Needs continues. We will be presenting them two quilts later this week. There is an upcoming gala, which King of Kings representatives will be attending.
- b. Kids of the Kingdom collected \$500 for Tanzania and the purchase of chickens. With the program elders teach the care of chickens; families receive them; and then donate one, so it becomes sustainable.
  - i. Discussed here this success story with the Kids of the Kingdom students.
- c. Every Meal: Program provides food packs to children so they have food over the weekend. Kings of Kings supports this program at Grey Cloud, and Pam will be meeting with a second school to discuss potential expansion of the program. Program is dietary specific, so meals are packed for specific needs.
  - i. There is a link in Sign-Up Genius for those interested in participating.
- d. Community Meals: Free meals are served the first Thursday of the month, and February had record participation. Pam is assessing participation in March, and how this may impact April, with the event falling on Maundy Thursday. Event may be moved from the cafeteria to another space to allow for more room.
- e. Minnesota Food Share Month: Pam is working with HyVee for donations. We will have shopping bags with shopping lists and branded stickers to collect food donations. Items will be weighed to track results, and donations will be given to Basic Needs. Donations will end either March 31 or Easter, depending on direction of food shelves. There is no pre-defined goal for donation collections.
  - i. We were reminded that a combination of food donations and cash is beneficial, as food shelves can order more food with the cash than what can typically be purchased with cash at the store.

**Monthly Staff Updates:**

1. Pastor Amelia provided an update on the Ash Wednesday service.

**“On our Radar”**

Dianne provided updates on several projects:

1. Columbarium Phase # 2: Dianne shared that will be delivered due to a recent donation. Limestone will be put on top in April / May.
  - a. 154 more spaces will be added; None have been sold to date.
2. Church Survey on Worship: This project is on hold. Pastor Jon said we are working to make sure we are asking the “right” questions so the survey will be beneficial and bring forward any real concerns that should be addressed.
3. Parking Lot: Currently costs of asphalt are higher than last year, so we are holding off on bidding the project.
4. Security: Dianne is working on the grant. Currently the grant funding is on hold as money comes through FEMA.
5. LED Screen Update: Dianne said this project is moving forward. She met with contractors, and the support for the screens is in place along with electrical needs. Dianne is waiting for quotes for construction work.
  - a. Dianne is working on a campaign for fund raising. \$1 will buy 64 pixels on the screens. Specific envelopes for donations will be available. There is a \$50,000 match for the project. Dianne will do a soft launch at the Annual Meeting.
  - b. The screen at the back of the Sanctuary was replaced in 2025.
  - c. Jason asked about the condition of the existing projectors and possible repurpose. Dianne said the bulbs need to be replaced and are extremely expensive, so it may not be worth it.
6. Garage Storage Project: Dianne has a member who wants to lead the garage project and a member who wants to fund the project. The proposed garage will be 20 x 20 feet. She is working through the City process for zoning and approvals. This project will allow many of the storage items to be moved from the storage areas in the church to the garage.

**Upcoming Council Meetings**

1. Congregational Annual Meeting February 22, 12:15 (MPR)
2. March 10, 5:30 – Executive Team meeting (to be rescheduled)
3. March 17, 6:30 – Council meeting (may be rescheduled due to absences on March 17)

**Council In Action**

1. Sunday Morning Presence – Communication with Congregation (Who’s there) – Cadence and Location
  - a. Jen said Sunday morning’s presence continues to be appreciated and beneficial with making connections
  - b. Pastor Jon said the Lent Devotional is online in printable format. They will have limited printed Devotionals, as the goal is to have people go to the website.
    - i. Students will receive information for small group discussion.

**Adjourn Meeting – Jen**

The meeting was adjourned at **7:32 pm** by Jen McKinnon.

**Closing Prayer & Prayer Requests** by Pastor Amelia

Appendix A: Staff Reports

**February 2026 Staff Reports**

Pastor Jon

Leadership:

- The Nominating process has been completed. While there are two vacancies for the Nominating Team, both Scott Borchert and Tricia Dege have offered to serve a second term if candidates don't come forward. We had some wonderful folks step forward and heard back from others that they were honored to be considered but it wasn't the right season for them. This is such a healthy sign that people want to serve.
- Working on vision for Fall 2026.

Stewardship:

- I am in the early stages of doing initial follow-up from the stewardship campaign as well as the second tier of connection with those that we have not yet heard from. This targeted process will be taking place throughout the year beginning with thankyou's and additional invitations to engage.

Worship:

- "Self-Sabotage – From Ruin to Redemption" has been completed with one page front and back formatting. Instead of printing the devotionals, we will be offering them online with new content for the upcoming week will be posted on Wednesdays. For those that would prefer a hard copy, the simple front-and-back, one-page format is easy to print at home. A limited number of printed copies will be available at church each Wednesday for those that may prefer a hard copy. For those who would prefer to receive a printed copy of the entire devotional series, they can simply let the church office know and we will be happy to prepare one for them to pick up. Confirmation students will have a one-page resource available for Wednesday night small group discussion.

General:

- Connection calls and visits are a key priority.

Pastor Amelia

Dianne Johnson

- Continued work on year end and budgeting
- Preparation for the Annual Meeting- roster, PP, agenda, ballots, sign-in sheets
- LED campaign launch- set up, marketing materials, meeting with Scarfone for preparation of walls, Collins on electrical and AVI/SPL
- Compliance reports for processing through Pushpay, PayPal and Square
- Notarizing service has been a boom this month
- Assisted in the Annual Report- thank you to Isabelle for all her work on this project!
- Creating ideas for the Easter memorials
- Enjoyed this last week without alarm calls due to the warmer weather.

- Valve needed to be replaced in the fire suppression system- always something with that
- Updating AEDs and working through options for safety/medical training for volunteers and staff.
- Starting performance reviews to be completed mid-March
- Identifying staffing needs
- Met with Holy Grounds staff and identified areas of improvement

#### Laurel Bornholtz

- Dawn Swenson, Sonja Hammond, Becky Hagen and Dick Quass are serving as the Simple Suppers for Lent team. The menu is set and will be published ahead of time. Women's Ministry, Caring Casseroles, Confirmation Students and Men's Ministry are scheduled to serve with one opening to fill - perhaps additional representatives from our Care Ministries.
- A small group of women from King of Kings traveled to Luther Park in Danbury, WI for a weekend retreat. I was unable to attend this year but heard very positive feedback.
- Along with Laura Griffith, I spoke with Darla Samuelson, RefreshHER 2026 Keynote Speaker. Darla will be focusing on how to live our lives without needing to take a vacation. Darla, John and their sons have been part of our King of Kings family for many years. Watch for more information on RefreshHER, along with Darla's bio.
- The Gertens Spring Fundraiser is underway (through April 2). This is a key fundraiser for students going to Camp Wapo or traveling to Idaho. The link will be provided in the Connection. If you don't have a student to support, please fill in the appropriate blank with "King of Kings". The proceeds from these orders will support chaperone expenses.

#### Paula Arland

- Summer Camp registration and planning is underway
  - VBS AM - Full
  - VBS PM
  - AGC - Full, working on waitlist
  - Camp at Wapo
- First Communion instruction starts this coming week with observation and first workshop. Thank you to Sue Pfeifer for leading the Seder portion once again.
- Recruiting for station and student leaders for VBS and AGC
- Kids of the Kingdom 3rd-5th graders are having fun with the golden plunger. Each week, classes answer a Bible Trivia question and the class who answers it correctly with the most Bibles brought to class by students wins the golden plunger. Students keep learning Bible verses through the Faith Rocks! They love the rocks that Annette Sherrill has painted for us over the years. Our January - May offering is supporting a Skoolie summer meal
- Led 1st Grade Lord's Prayer milestone. Classes will start to work on learning the prayer using ASL. Leading the Lord's Prayer in worship in April.

#### Michael Carmack

- Planning fat tuesday....all good to go for a super great night!
- Had 20 plus ms students at a hang out night and 15 hs who wanted to come hang out! Super cool to see!
- Confirmation is going to be shifting just a bit due to lent coming up! Everything happens on wednesdays just the same but we join in worship
- Spring confirmation retreat is coming up! End of Feb/mar 1

- Attending WAPO annual meeting as a delegate from KoK and board member

Isabelle Hammond

Recently Completed Projects:

- Designed and printed summer camp offerings booklet
- Designed and printed the Annual Report
- Prepped content for Lent such as designing the graphics and bulletins
- Maintained summer camp registrations on the website
- Created supporting materials for special events for individual ministries (Fat Tuesday, Women's Ministry, etc.)

Current and Upcoming Projects:

- Adding new plugins to WordPress so that the registrations on our website have more capabilities
- Providing support for upcoming displays such as Minnesota Foodshare and Easter Memorials
- Preparing to print bulletins twice a week

Jake Pickett

Pam Hoeffel

- Community Dinner - we had to bring out 3 extra 3 foot tables for guests. Received thank you's from Community leaders for they heard feedback about the special dinner.
- Gave an interactive presentation for King's Sisters on Tanzania
- Preparing for Minnesota Food Share Month. Hy-Vee in Cottage Grove will donate shopping carts for our collection display in the Gathering space
- Met with Antonio Franklin from Basic Needs looking at more opportunities, the successes and challenges.

Andrea Villanueva