

Partnership Council Minutes – February 5, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Cheryl, Kristen Ohm, Jeremy Tollakson, Sara Tollakson, Jon Anderson, Ellie Helgeson, Becky Parker, Absent Jerry Ruepke

Pastor Cheryl opened our meeting with prayer.

The Presidents of both congregations signed the Partnership Council agreements and dated them 1/19/2025. An original was provided to each congregation with one to be sent to the Southwest Minnesota Synod.

Election of officers was held with the following results:

President: Jerry Rueple

Vice President: Jon Anderson

Secretary: Becky Parker

Member At Large: Kristen Ohm

Motion by Ellie Helgeson, second by Kristen Ohm to initiate the Call Process with the Southwest Minnesota Synod. Discussion was held on being sure to make it clear how the Call Process works with our Partnership. The Agreement states it as follows:

ARTICLE XI – Call Process

1. The Partnership Council will initiate a review of the Partnership and begin the call process.
2. Each of the congregations will appoint their own Call Committee according to the guidelines of their existing constitutions.
3. Both the Partnership Council and Call Committees will coordinate with the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Office during the call process.
4. The Call Committees will recommend the candidate(s) and the proposed compensation to the Partnership Council, who must approve it before sending it to the congregations for a vote.
5. Each congregation will vote on the recommendation of their Call Committee in accordance with its constitution. A call will not be issued unless approved by both of the congregations

1st Communion will be held at both churches individually so Pastor has smaller classes. She will initiate the schedule.

Communion will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month moving forward. Contemporary worship will be either the 2nd or 4th Sunday of the month.

It was the consensus of the Partnership Council that confirmation remain in the fall.

Lenten and Holy Week services are scheduled as follows:

Ash Wednesday: Zion 5:30 First English 6:30

Lenten Services alternate locations at 6:00 pm starting at First English on the 12th

Holy Week Services: Maunday Thursday at Zion 7 pm Good Friday at First English 7pm

Easter Sunday Services: 7 am and 9 am at First English and 10:30 a Zion

Lenten Suppers will be held at each church coordinated by individuals from each congregation beginning on March 12 with the time to be determined. Youth will help with the meals and with the Lenten Services. The 9th grade is helping with Ash Wednesday.

Discussion was held on Pastor Cheryl's hours but was determined to keep them the same with the continued ability to be flexible when needed.

Concerns were brought up by parishioners and discussed, but the Council feel all is working well and we are successfully cooperating.

Partnership Council minutes will be published in each church's newsletter and on their website.

Wednesday Youth engagement and procedures were discussed in light of the issues that have been brought to Pastor's attention. A meeting was being held following this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Parker, Secretary
First English/Zion Lutheran Partnership Council