

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLANNED PARISH 2026 JANUARY
5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 7th, 2026

Council Boards: Split up where you can. Council (1 rep. from each board) immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. **Agendas, Financials, & Documents** will be in the fellowship hall.

Mission Statement: By the grace of God First English Lutheran Church will grow as one family of faith, secure in the knowledge of Christ's gift of salvation, proclaiming God's love for all.

Welcome President Jon Anderson

Devotions Pastor

ALL BOARDS:

Theme verse: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me." John 10:27

1. Review Annual Reports
2. Internal Audit: Brent Zahrbock and Ellie Helgeson for internal audit of 2025 books. Audit should be done ASAP.
3. 2026 budget planning. Submit board budgets for approval.
4. Reminder to start seeking new members for board replacement vacancies.
5. Annual meeting date January 25th (backup date February 1st).
6. Review Pastor Cheryl's FELC & Zion Annual Planning Schedule and please remember to let Pastor know if your board or committee is meeting and keep her abreast of activities, discussions, and decisions so we can be on the same page. Upcoming dates of congregational importance:
 - a. 1/11 Roller-Skating at Sioux Historic for Zion & FELC
 - b. 2/8 Superbowl Sunday Sub Fundraiser
 - c. 2/11 5-6:30 pm Just for the love of it meal (Council Meeting should be moved)
 - d. 2/18 Ash Wed. 1 pm at FWV, 5:30 pm at FELC, 6:30 at Zion
 - e. 1 pm Lenten Service at FWV
 - f. February 25; March 11; March 25 - 6 pm - Service at First English
 - g. March 4; March 18 - 6 pm - Service at Zion Lutheran
7. Any other suggestions for annual meeting agenda items? (Reminder about Boards for Specific Concerns, Elevator Repair Auction Fundraiser, New Pastor-Parish Relations Committee)
8. Should we have a thermometer graphic for elevator fundraiser?
9. Lenten Meal Schedule Changes?
10. Synod's Notice of proposed Constitution Amendments.

Council items:

1. **Approve December minutes.**
2. **Approve Treasurer's report**
3. **Decide on February Council Date.**
4. Any other suggestions for annual meeting agenda items?
5. Synod's Notice of proposed Constitution Amendments.
6. Board reports
7. **Review benevolence percentages**
8. **Approve the 2026 proposed budget**
9. FYI: Lac Qui Parle annual conference Time & Location TBD. Can have up to 6 volunteer delegates to attend.
10. FYI: Green Lake bible camp annual meeting February (1 pm Feb. 10, 2026). Need 1-2 volunteer delegates to attend.
11. **Approval of the Annual Meeting Agenda**
12. Other

Lay Ministry

1. Accept December reports (if any):
 - a. WAM (*none*)
 - b. Endowment (*none*)
 - c. Dec. Finance Work Group
2. Annual Meeting Agenda
3. Salary increases (2.5% increase)
4. Evaluation of Christmas Eve Services 2:30 attendance: 230 people 6:30 attendance: 55 people
5. Ash Wed. Services both at FELC (6:30 pm) & Zion (5:30 pm) with Lenten Services (6 pm) rotating with Zion, but starting at FELC on Feb 25th.
6. Other

Evangelism

1. Transfers in/out (*none*)
2. Status report on Evangelism reaching out to prospective members from friendship pads.
3. Giving Tree Report
4. Adult Game Night w/supper - Jan 9th
5. Just for the Love of It Meal - Feb. 11th
6. FWV services for Lent
7. Promotion of Lent/Easter services?
8. Other

Christian Education

1. Submit Annual Report
2. 2026 VBS date change due to conflicts?
 - a. Beth Fladhammer & Sara Tollakson meeting in January.
3. Evaluate 12/14 Christmas program with coffee & cake afterwards.
4. Status of plans for combined events for FELC & Zion youth?
 - a. Jan 11th roller-skating (10:30 am to 1:30 pm)
 - b. Unity Square Swimming Feb 22nd (1-3 pm)
 - c. Ice Skating in March?
 - d. April 26th (Time TBD) Lakeside Park (or backup open gym)
5. Singing in church in 2026?
6. Summer Worship 7 pm Wednesdays at Zion Lawn or FELC parking lot?
7. Other

Youth & Family Ministry

1. Bake Sale Report
2. Status of signup sheets for families serving meals & sitting in class.
3. Want to get congregation members to volunteer to teach a life skill, bible lesson, etc.? The council meetings may change which Wednesday this will be.
4. Sr. Youth Mission Trip planning report- how many are signed up officially?
5. Any other summer events/trips?
6. Superbowl Sunday Subs Fundraiser
7. Create Regulations on Designated Youth Funds (*Discuss with Pr. Cheryl prior to Council Meeting*)
8. Other

Stewardship

1. Plan to present financial plan at annual meeting (one board member plus treasurer).
2. Same benevolence as last year.
3. Church financial Status
4. Designate Lenten offerings.
5. Evaluate Fall Stewardship Theme and Execution
6. Status of opportunity sheets. Work with Barbara to get a volunteer list to those that can use it.
7. Auction Fundraiser for Elevator
8. Other

Church Properties

1. Larry's Refrigeration Upcoming Estimate
2. Status - TKE upgrading our elevator
3. Tech Desk Build in Feb. or March
4. Sidewalk sinking (ongoing project)
5. Bell Tower leak update
6. Repair/Update Sound System Report
7. Ongoing needs at church as funds allow:
 - a. Fellowship hall ceiling repair/replacement
 - b. Paint hallways-volunteers?
 - c. Carpet over asbestos tiles
 - d. Sanctuary painting
8. Portable Phone to work w/main line
9. Set Security to recording only motion-activated events
10. Other

Pastor's report

Next Meeting: TBD by council at this meeting. The 2nd Wed. in February is the "Just For the Love of It" Meal.