

2025-12-11

Thursday, December 11, 2025 10:54 AM

Mt Calvary December 2025 Council Meeting

President: Ken Tague

Date: 12/15/25 6PM

Call to order and opening prayer

*Review for Approval: Previous Meeting Minutes

Pastor's update	Pastor Tom
Elders' Report	Jake Hermanson

Vote on

*Financial Report	Linda Norton
*Treasurer's Report	Mary Barkley

Board Reports

Education	
Evangelism	
Discipleship	Ed & JoAnn Chapman
Worship	Jen Olson
Parish Nurse	
Youth	Natasha Cooper
Records	David Cormeny
Stewardship	
Property	Terry Pauling

Old Business:

- Local Mission Fund status (December)
 - o \$50k left to allocate
 - Nancy's place
 - WeLift
 - Lutheran Family Services

New Business:

- Elder's:
 - o Standing directive that requires annual review:

Resolve, that Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution, to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for Pastor Tom Vanderbilt for the duration of service in an amount each year up to sixty percent (60%) of said person's annual compensation. Annual Compensation comprised of base salary, parish factor, housing, and utility.
- Treasurer:
 - o Choir Director fee: \$1560
 - Local missions fund

Tabled items:

- 2026 LCMS Convention (July 17-23, 2026)

Next Meetings:

- January 19th, 6pm

- Adjourn**
- Closing Prayer**

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2025

Page 1 of 2

President Ken called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Pastor opened with prayer.

A motion to approve the November Congregational Meeting minutes was offered by Jake, with a second by JoAnn. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Pastor asked the Council to read the Introduction to “Anatomy of a Revived Church” by Thom S. Rainer, prior to the meeting.

A key point is made on page 3, “Individuals and Organizations do not lack the resources, knowledge, and information to survive; they simply do not choose to make the changes that are clear and available.” An example is the individual who smokes cigarettes, knows that it is a health risk, but chooses to continue, not wanting to make the tough choices necessary to quit and ends up in bad health or death because of this choice.

Hope and leadership are two ingredients that are needed to survive.

Page 13 has five questions, the answers, which start conversations and the formation of ideas, lead to a better understanding of the current circumstances and acceptance of challenges that lie ahead.

One thing, most certainly true: on pages 10-11 are God’s foundational, unchangeable truths as recorded in the Bible. Add to this list, the forgiveness of sins, our order of service and Mission Statement which are most near to us as a congregation.

The ultimate goal, at Mt. Calvary, is to keep this church alive for future generations who choose to live in this community.

Jake reviewed the Elder’s report. See attached.

Linda presented the Financial report. A motion to approve was offered by Terry, with second by Ed. Motion carried. See attached.

Mary presented the November Treasurer Reports. A discussion about how money flowed from one account to another centered around acceptable accounting principles. A motion to approve the November Treasurer report was offered by Linda, with a second by Jake. Motion carried. See attached reports.

Discipleship – See attached.

Worship - See attached

No other reports were submitted.

Old Business

1. A short discussion about the Local Mission Fund centered around Nancy's Place, WeLift Compassion Fund, Lutheran Family Services and Lutheran Laymen's League. The Council asked questions about Lutheran Family Services, but information was not readily available, therefore a decision was made to table the discussion and act on it at the January Council meeting.

New Business

1. Each year, a standing directive is reviewed to meet IRS regulations for Pastors. The following motion was offered by Terry, with a second by Mary.

Resolve, that Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution, to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for Pastor Tom Vanderbilt for the duration of service in an amount each year up to sixty percent (60%) of said person's annual compensation. Annual Compensation comprised of base salary, parish factor, housing and utility.

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. A motion by Mary, with second by Terry, was offered to withdraw \$1,560 from the Local Mission Fund, to close out the calendar year Choir Director's fee. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The next scheduled Council meeting is set for January 19th at 6pm.

Terry offered a motion to adjourn, with second by Ed, at 7:15pm. Motion carried.

Pastor led the group in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Terry Pauling

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

2025-11-09 Congregational Meeting

Pastor opened with prayer.

Jen Olson moved to accept last month's meeting minutes and Linda Norton seconded it. The motion was approved.

Pastor provided his update which included an executive update from the convention. Pastor is on the board for Human Care.

Pastor gave elders update.

Linda Norton gave an update on the financial report. Dave Zwanziger moved to approve the financial report and Jean Schroeder seconded it. The motion was approved.

Mary Barkley gave an update on the treasurers report. Offerings are low. Missions are based on offerings. Jen Ohnemus moved to accept the report and Bud Bohannon seconded it. The motion was approved.

There is \$50,000 in undesignated monies for charity. This has been tabled for now. The thought is exploring more faith based options such as Lutheran Services offsite for adoption by church workers. Another option is Nancy's Place which assists people with learning disabilities.

Terry Pauling had asked to recognized people such as Steve Roush and The Beautification committee for helping with the upkeep of the property.

An ask was made for the 1% be made to We Lift versus Indianola Hope Fund.

Midweek meals are mostly congregation members and individuals from the community who have no other source for a meal. Pastor asked why the can money could not be put into a line item for Discipleship.

Jen Olson motion to accept 2026 budget as written. Noreen Smith seconded motion. The motion was approved.

Pastor presented Bridging The Gap. Vision for Mt. Calvary. It is made up of three parts: Where Are We?, Who Is Our Community?, How Do We Bridge The Gap?. Current budget can not support a DCE. Not a whole lot for DCE to do. More to come.

Jen Ohnemus motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ed Chapman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Meyer

Hey Everyone:

Just confirming we will not be having a meeting for Dec. Here are some upcoming Events.

Dec 21st- Cookie Exchange

Jan 25th- -after late service Trivia and Chili Cookoff,

Feb7th- Make Noodles and Pies for

Feb 15th Turkey Noodle Luncheon. After Late service. Congregation Challenge Take home a meal for someone you know in need of meal of maybe just a visit.

Jan Meeting is Jan 5th 6PM

Merry Christmas to Everyone.

Ed & JoAnn Chapman

Worship Board Meeting-December 6, 2025 8:00 AM

Attendees: Jen, Lisa, Sherrie, Karla D., Pastor, Charlotte

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/ACTION STEPS	FOLLOW UP DATE & BY WHOM
Covenant	Promise of how we will treat others during our meetings. -Be respectful -Keep Christ as our focus -Be kind -Good listeners within the group and with members of our church -Reaching out to others that may want to serve on our board -Our job is to help Pastor with his job/being servants	
Devotion	Portals of Prayers	Jen
New Business		
Committee Responsibilities for December/January	-Take down decorations. January 10th at 9:00 -Poinsettias will go home after Dec. 25 th . A notice will be put in the bulletin.	
Pastor Updates	-December 28-Martyrdom of the Holy Innocents will be celebrated at this service. Paraments will be red on this day instead of white.	
Old Business		
New Worship Board Members	Asked Emily O., Melinda G. -No response yet from either of them.	

WIFI:
 Mt.Calvary Guest
 PW: mtcavary

Attendees: Jen, Lisa, Sherrie, Karla D., Pastor, Charlotte

<p>Memorial Committee</p>	<p>-Invite has been extended to members. Jill Sickles may be interested. Karla Roush asked if we were starting over with a new group. No, we are refreshing/adding to it. Karla Roush, Charlotte, Jill Sickles, Jen O. will be on the committee.</p>	<p>Jen</p>
<p>Mid-Week Meal</p>	<p>Serve on December 10th-loosemeats, baked beans, chips, desserts, veggie tray</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chips/buns-Jen -Beans/dessert-Sherrie -Cake-Karla D. -Chocolate chip bars/veggie tray-Lisa -Brownies-Charlotte -plan for 50+ people <p>Need 15 lbs. of meat made. We each can make 3 pounds of browned hamburger. Season as you would for own.</p> <p>Serve at 5:30; be at the church by 5:00; Charlotte here by 4:45 to start drinks.</p>	
<p>Candle Oil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gene will let us know if he needs others to support filling candles when we have more than 2 services per week. -Is there an oil that burns longer than 2 hours? No. -Someone commented that they are too high for some of the acolytes to reach. Not an issue. 	

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Worship Board Meeting-December 6, 2025 8:00 AM

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Easter Vigil	-Pastor explained this and may be bringing this back sometime. It happens at sundown on the Saturday before Easter. -Charlotte volunteered to play the organ. -More to come.	
Closing	Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.	
Next Meeting January 10, 2026 8:30		
For future agendas:		
Memorials Ideas-On hold	<u>Mt Calvary's Memorial Policy</u> Undesignated funds ideas: -Outside flags that come with poles. -Paraments for Gaudete, for the pink candle in the wreath. These paraments would be used on the 4 th Sunday of Lent and the 3 rd Sunday of Advent-rose colored paraments. Will need to be homemade. Pastor will do some research on this.	-
Sacristy-On hold	Continue the communion process as we do now. Consider: -different sink -refrigerator-we need to move it to the sacristy -on demand hot water heater -glass communion cups -rack for cleaning cups.	

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Outdoor banners-On hold	Karla D. is wondering if there is an easier way to put the flags on the poles. Karla took these home and is working on them. We are missing part of one.	Karla D.
Yearly To Dos:		

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