

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Quarterly Meeting
April 25-26, 2026

1. Opening Prayer
2. Financial Report
3. New Business
 - a. Update on Call Process
 - b. Staffing changes
4. Lord's Prayer

St. John's Congregational Council Meeting

February 21, 2026 Off-site

Members present: President Dr. Scott Hirth, Vice President David Clark, Treasurer Teresa Orahood, Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich, Cindy Gonsowski, Dennis Imbrock, Abby Johnston, Doug Knisely, Susan Previts, Dave Stallard, Bonnie Swanson, Amy Wanner, Pastor Patti Morlock

Members Absent: none

Call meeting to order: Dr. Hirth called the Council Meeting to order at 8:52am.

Introductions: Each member introduced themselves, including their occupation and leadership experiences, to help form a background of skills we can offer within council.

Opening prayer and devotions: President Dr. Scott Hirth started our time together with prayer and led a devotion on Matthew 18. Future devotions will be rotated among all members.

Approval of previous month minutes: Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich confirmed that the November minutes had been approved by a majority of council members over email. Dr. Hirth explained that in future, we will be approving minutes at the following meeting as the resolutions only allow for email voting when truly necessary. Minutes will continue to be distributed in a timely manner.

Donation: A basket was passed around to collect a donation for Lutheran Social Services. Other ministries may be considered for donations in future months.

Mission Statement and NALC Core Values: Dr. Hirth read the mission statement of our congregation and Pastor Patti went through the NALC core values to remind everyone of our driving purposes and focus as leaders at St. John's. The core values include being Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused.

Council notebook: Dr. Hirth went through the council notebook and highlighted some key points to be aware of and how to find information about the church's constitution, policies, and guidelines. Particularly of note is the guidance to follow Robert's Rules during meetings. Dr. Hirth also noted that he would like to send out reports ahead of council meetings, and requests all reports for the next meeting be sent to him 7-10 days before the meeting so they can be assembled into one meeting packet (avoiding many different emails being sent prior to the meeting).

Missions Team: (moved up in the agenda to address before Abby had to leave) Dr. Hirth moved to ratify the missions team as listed in the meeting packet. Teresa Orahood seconded the motion and it passed with no objections. Council then discussed the missions budget line items. There are currently three restricted funds, General Mission,

Mexico Mission, and Alaska Mission. It was brought up that it should be clear where funds from fundraisers are going, whether to a specific trip, with people from our congregation involved, or to a mission organization. It was also discussed that only the congregation can make changes to allocated funds and that it should be clear who makes decisions about how those funds are used. Abby Johnston made a motion to table the discussion until the March meeting. Amy Wanner seconded. Discussion – this will give us a chance to check on the regulations and also to think about ways to give the congregation more options to support the youth and missions in various ways. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Patti gave an overview of her activities over the last two months to help give the council an idea of the workload of the pastor. These included, among other things, 5 baptisms, 4 funerals, 31 hospital visits, preparation for an upcoming wedding, ministerial meetings, overseeing the pastoral intern, providing community aid, and of course, sermons and leading worship. Pastor Patti also informed council that next weekend she will be out of town helping to lead a women's retreat.

Financial report: Treasurer Teresa Orahood distributed the financial report. She reported that the weather in January has led to a slow start to the year financially. Teresa moved to accept the financial report, David Clark seconded, and the motion was approved.

Teresa then made a motion for the property team to use up to \$3000 from the Designated Music Memorial Fund to replace the cabinets in the choir room. Pastor Patti seconded. During discussion, it was brought up that heavier cabinets may be beneficial for holding the heavy music and to prevent having to replace the cabinets again in a short time frame. Dr. Hirth made a motion to amend the amount to \$5000. David Clark seconded. The motion was approved.

Teresa made an additional motion to approve the use of up to \$3000 from the property endowment fund available income to replace a damaged divider in the downstairs Sunday School room. Rachel Katterhenrich seconded and the motion carried.

Membership Report: Rachel Katterhenrich read the December membership report. Dr. Hirth indicated that he would like to see membership reports include a broader range of changes, including all baptisms, and deaths, as well as transfers and affirmation of faith. Rachel motioned to acknowledge the outgoing member by transfer Michael Walsh, from the December report. Pastor Patti seconded and there were no objections.

Vice President election: David Clark has expressed his willingness to continue in this role. No other nominations were offered. Dr. Hirth motioned to accept David Clark as vice president. Bonnie Swanson seconded and the motion passed.

Prayer requests: Dr. Hirth invited council members to share prayer requests and several were shared among the group.

Unfinished business:

- The Call Team continues in their work to call a new Senior Pastor. Dr. Hirth reminded council to be careful with sensitive information that may be shared as the process continues so that we can be respectful of pastors considering the call.

New Business:

- Ratify the property team – the team membership list was provided by Karen Bentley, the chair of that team. One change is to remove Jason’s name from the list and to add the title ‘Building and Grounds Manager’ to the list. Dr. Hirth motioned to approve the team, Teresa seconded and it passed.
- Council Liaisons – After some discussion on the roles of council liaisons, Dr. Hirth motioned to approve the following list of council liaisons. Dennis Imbrock seconded the motion and it passed. Rachel Katterhenrich will send a description of the networks to the council members.
 - Property Team – Dennis Imbrock
 - Missions Team and Service Network – Abby Johnston
 - Call Team Liaison – Dr. Hirth
 - Adult Discipleship Network – Bonnie Swanson
 - Stewardship Network – Teresa Orahood
 - Communication and Technology Network – David Clark
 - Education Network and Youth Network – Amy Wanner
 - Worship Network – Rachel Katterhenrich and Cindy Gonsowski
 - Outreach Network – Doug Knisely
 - Fellowship Network – Susan Previts
 - Member Caregiving Network – Dave Stallard
- Teresa also motioned to approve the following finance teams. Amy seconded and the motion passed.
 - Finance Team – Kathy Myers, Dave Keil, Larry Sutton, Shawn Brace, Tony Bennett, Nate Wanner, Karrie Clark, and Dan Yeater
 - Endowment Team – Dan Yeater, Shawn Brace, and Tony Bennett
- Building and Grounds Manager position – Jason Bosse has been let go from this position as his actions were not in line with our mission as a church. The church will need to be rekeyed as part of security protocols. The safe combination has already been changed as well. Dr. Hirth asked Dennis Imbrock to lead the team to hire a new manager.
- Security grant – David Clark reported that he is continuing the process to apply for a grant to help offset the cost of upgrading certain security features, following an event that was put on last year to highlight how organizations can be more secure.
- Meeting Dates – The council decided to continue to meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. Dr. Hirth distributed a schedule for leading prayer/devotions at each meeting.

- Background checks – Dr. Hirth noted that the constitution requires background checks of officers and council discussed who else generally gets a background check and who should. Dr. Hirth motioned to make it our policy that those who work with youth and the property manager should have a background check every two years. Teresa seconded the motion. There was some discussion and the motion passed. One point of discussion was that we may want to consider ordering higher level checks for some positions or at beginning of employment. This can be discussed further at the next meeting after researching options. Pastor Patti will ask Jamie about the background check options and send it to the officers.
- Congregational meeting dates – these are mostly set by the constitution. The dates for the next year are quarterly meetings on April 26, July 26, and October 25, 2026. The next annual meeting is set for January 24, 2027.

Congregational concerns:

- Amy brought up a concern about who should be responsible for tasks during a funeral. She observed that Christina Allman had worked on many tasks during a recent funeral and was concerned she wouldn't have that time for youth tasks. Pastor Patti explained that there is someone who helps with many of the tasks related to the worship and clean up aspects and that generally the funeral home or the family are responsible for other tasks. Bonnie mentioned that the bereavement team may be able to look into adding a team member dedicated to liaising with the family as necessary. Pastor Patti also said she would talk to the staff about distribution of tasks.

Adjournment: Dr. Hirth motioned to adjourn, Pastor Patti seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned following saying the Lord's Prayer together.

ACTION ITEMS:

All council members - Review the minutes and respond to Secretary Rachel Katterhenrich within 48 hours with corrections as necessary

All council members – send any reports to President Hirth 7-10 days before the next meeting

Abby and Teresa – research the designated funds for missions and who controls them

Teresa – look for descriptions of the designated funds, is there more info on what each can be used on other than the name of the fund?

Teresa – report back to property team about the approved motions for cabinets and divider

Teresa – prepare slate of audit team to be ratified at next meeting

Pastor Patti – talk to Jamie about the broader scope of membership reports and ask her to send the background check information to executive council

Pastor Patti – talk to staff about funeral tasks

Rachel – send descriptions of liaison networks to all council members

Dennis – form team to hire new Building and Grounds Manager

Amy – talk to youth staff and Sunday school superintendent about background check policy

Rachel - send meeting dates to Kathryn

Next meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026, at 6:30 pm in room 103/104

St. John's Lutheran Church

Monthly Financial Statement as of March 31, 2026

Prepared 4/17/2026

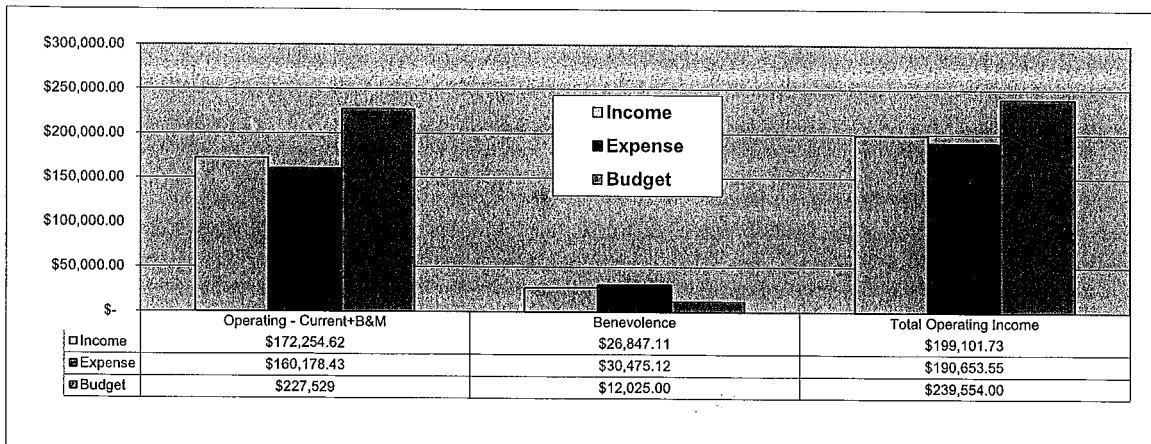
Monthly/Year to Date Major Funds		
Month of:	March 2026	Year to Date
Income		
Operating - Current+B&M	\$ 64,455.31	\$ 172,254.62
Benevolence	\$ 8,969.90	\$ 26,847.11
Total Operating Income	\$73,425.21	\$199,101.73
Expenses		
Operating - Current+B&M	\$ 56,917.76	\$ 160,178.43
Benevolence	\$ 11,211.07	\$ 30,475.12
Total Operating Expense	\$68,128.83	\$ 190,653.55
Fund Differences		
Operating - Current+B&M	\$ 7,537.55	\$ 12,076.19
Benevolence	(\$2,241.17)	\$ (3,628.01)
Totals	\$5,296.38	\$ 8,448.18

Approved Non-Budgeted Expenditures	
Account	Year to Date
Current+B&M	\$0.00
Benevolence (Previous Year/Designated)	\$18,450.12
Total Income	\$18,450.12

Budget Comparison - Year to Date		
Account	Budget	Actual
Current - Budgeted	\$ 227,529	\$ 160,178
Benevolence - Budgeted	\$ 12,025.00	\$ 30,475
Totals	\$ 239,554.00	\$ 190,653.55

Budgeted expenditures listed above do not include spending approved from the three (3) operating accounts separate from the budget. These expenditures were approved by either the Council or congregation. They include items such as "pass-through" designated benevolence, benevolence funds received at the end of last year but spent this year, and particular maintenance or capital improvement items.

Fund Balances: End of Month Balanced	
Account Name	Amount
OPERATING:	
Operating -- Current + B&M	\$ 254,615.96
Benevolence	\$ 38,940.33
DESIGNATED:	
Genesis Fund	\$ 3,363.10
Youth Designated Fund	\$ 22,782.07
Sarah Circle & Elizabeth Circle	\$ 889.94
Quilters	\$ 1,725.83
Bereavement Dinner Ministry	\$ 4,160.98
Designated Funds Interest	\$ -
Intern Fund	\$ 620.48
Gary Allen Fund - Playground	\$ 17,683.56
MEMORIAL:	
Memorial Fund Unrestricted Savings	\$ 69,212.83
Memorial Restricted (M/R) Library	\$ 365.24
M/R Handbell	\$ 6,521.82
M/R Kitchen	\$ 4,989.36
M/R Music	\$ 10,611.29
M/R Youth Camp Memorials	\$ 599.93
M/R Youth	\$ 12,764.34
M/R OWLS	\$ 1,754.04
M/R Special One-Time Account	\$ 41,789.78
M/R Accessibility Project	\$ 88,975.82
M/R Puppet Ministry	\$ 1,232.67
M/R Mission Trip Gen	\$ 30,575.97
M/R Mission Trip Alaska	\$ 13,219.56
M/R Mission Trip Mexico	\$ 38,480.89
M/R Columbarium Fund	\$ 18,040.00
M/R Organ and Renovations	\$ -
M/R Bell Tower Carillon	\$ 2,000.00
ENDOWMENT-PRINCIPAL:	
Endowment/Gen/Restricted/Principal	\$ 1,080,785.44
Endowment/Prop/Restricted/Principal	\$ 234,404.64
Endowment/Youth/Restricted/Principal	\$ 32,395.25
Cemetery Endowment Principal	\$ 46,100.00
Unrealized Appr/(Depr)	\$ 187,649.89
ENDOWMENT-AVAILABLE INCOME:	
Endowment/Gen/Available Income	\$ 20,554.99
Endowment/Prop/Available Income	\$ 5,613.36
Endowment/Youth/Available Income	\$ 997.23
Cemetery Available-HNB Premium MM	\$ 4,781.71
COLLEGE GRANTS/SUMWALT LOANS:	
College Fund Savings - HNB	\$ 5,866.54
Sumwalt Savings Account - HNB	\$ -
Bequest Holding Account	\$ 1,861,711.23



PASTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2026

As we reflect on this first quarter of 2026, I am keenly aware of God's faithful presence among us. Though we have faced both joys and challenges, the Spirit continues to move, breathe new life, and invite us deeper into faithful witness here in Grove City. I am grateful for each of you and the ways you embody Christ's love in our congregation and this community.

Worship continues to remain the heartbeat of our life together. Our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services have been deeply meaningful, with many of you commenting on how moved you have been. We continue to have a steady stream of visitors, and I have met with several of them by invitation and look forward to continuing those relationships moving forward. We remain committed to being a welcoming, Spirit-filled space for all who join us.

Spiritual formation remains a vital part of our shared life together. The Life-2-Life Discipleship groups continue to gather and share deep and meaningful conversation around God's Word. Our Sunday School classes, both children and adults, continues to reflect the importance of being life-long learners in matters of the faith.

We have had some staffing transitions as our Building and Maintenance Manager, was let go due to behavior not in line with who we are as a church. Our youth team continues to search for a Youth Director, while those who are serving in the meantime have done a fantastic job of keeping things on track for our youth, offering wonderful and exciting experiences to grow them in their faith. Our intern resigned during Holy Week, citing personal issues that needed attending to. Despite all these changes and challenges, we are having a great ministry year, and things continue to operate smoothly in large part because of the wonderful staff and volunteers that serve St. John's. The call team continues to work diligently in the search for a new senior pastor, and I look forward to the new and renewed energy that comes with such change.

Sadly, we have had funerals for nine of God's dearly beloved. They are:

Averil MacKenzie 1-17-2026

Herb Weisenberger – 1-31-2026

Jane Stenerson – 2-14-2026

Beverly Wilson – 2-16-2026

Karen Sheldon – 3-19-2026

Carl Patzer – 3-20-2026

Connie Sonnen – 3-27-2-26

Karl Barch – 4-1-2026

Benjamin Reeves – 4-22-2026

We have brought into this family of faith five persons through Baptism. They are:

Greyson Sander Musick – Jan 3, 2026

Magnolia Marie Wininger – Jan 3, 2026

Ryleigh Jane Winninger – Jan 3, 2026

Wyatt Emerson Brandt – Jan 11, 2026

Hannah Ranae Carroll – Jan 11, 2026

Four more Baptisms are scheduled for May 17th.

This past quarter has been a season of stretching, celebration, and hope. In the midst of it all, God is at work – making beautiful things out of dust.

Thank you for your faithful prayers – they mean more than you can know. Your service, generosity and witness make this family of faith a vibrant one. It is a privilege to serve as your pastor. I look forward to all that the Lord has in store for us.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Patti

Youth April Quarterly Report

Souper bowl Service Project, student-led by Lukas Althoff, raised \$1,943.35 to tackle hunger. Lukas thanks you for your generous support in feeding the hungry in our community.

Blankets of Love, student-led by Cordelia Wanner, tied blankets and provided sheet sets for 35 beds for the Bed Brigade.

Lego Club hosted by Jennifer Mitchell and Stephanie Potokar started in February and will be held once a month on the 3rd Sunday from 12-2:00pm for March and April. We want to thank the Katterhenrich Family for hosting the Lego Club for the year 2025 and all the support going forward with the change of leadership!

We have continued Children's Church on an every other Sunday rotation but will be taking off in the month of May as we will be having combined services due to the replacement of the FLC floor.

Adventure Club, Faith Trek, Explorers, and Energizers weekly programming have been running from January and will conclude on April 30th for the school year. We are thankful to our many adults and teens who make Wednesday and Thursday nights amazing throughout the school year.

We have also been gearing up for Graduation Sunday and Confirmation in the month of May.

Youth Ministry Search Committee Report
April 26, 2026

Grace and peace to you from the Youth Ministry Search Committee.

Since the retirement of Laurie Pecuch and Diana Imbrock from our Youth Ministry program last May, the committee has focused primarily on supporting our interim youth staff: Christina Allman, Ginny Rogers, and Donna Westerfield. These three women have done an incredible job sustaining this ministry. There have been some challenges and many blessings along the way, and we are eternally grateful to God for them and their service to our youth and church. We also extend our thanks to the volunteers and staff who have supported them in their work.

We are also actively working to lay a foundation for the day when we will hire permanent youth staff. We ask the congregation to continue praying for whomever the Lord is preparing to lead youth ministry at St. John's, as well as for our current interim staff and the search committee.

Blessings,

Amy Wanner
Chair, Youth Ministry Search Committee