

**St Mark's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
February 17, 2026**

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Youth Committee Report

Attendance

Date: Feb 17, 2026	Location: St. Mark's Church
Time Started: 7PM	Time Ended: 8:30PM

Invited	Apr 29	May 27	June 17	Sep 23	Oct 21	Nov 18	Dec 7 Budget	Jan 13	Feb 17	Mar 24	Apr 19	Apr 21	May
Jen Polet (S)	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E				
Brian Lorch (T)	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P				
Nels Kristenson	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	P	E				
Tom Lewis	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	P	P				
Jodi Pappel	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P				
Cole Parsons (VC)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Marijus Timmerman (C)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Lyndon Graff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				
Pastor Zsófi (exofficio)	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	E				
VACANT													
Guests: Rev. Vince Solomon (prior to meeting start), Jane Karpa													

Minutes

1. Opening Devotion - led by Lyndon

2. Approval of Agenda

MSC CC-2026-03 - That the Agenda for Feb 17, 2026 be approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

MSC CC-2026-04 - That the Minutes of the Council Meeting dated January 13, 2026 be approved.

MSC CC-2026-05 - That the Minutes of the E-vote Meeting dated January 20, 2026 be approved.

4. Business Arising from minutes

a) Chair has informed that the contract for half time interim ministry with St. Marks was signed by Rev. Vince this past week.

5. Finance - see report

- a) Little to report as numbers from only 1 month are not useful, though a surplus is presented thus far.
- b) Bequests were received in December - funds are placed in the Memorial account but Brian suggested they should be moved to the Capital Works Fund.
- c) Cole informed that insurance renewal was completed with a nominal increase to valuation, though no appraisal has been completed for a number of years.

6. Reports

a) Chair - Question regarding the continuation of attendance at committees Pr. Zsofi had been spearheading:

- i) Faith Council - Interdenominational lead by Minister Moroz. Marijus indicated desire to at least attend next meeting before deciding future.
 - 1) Next meeting is Mar 13/26 at St. Ignatius (meetings are annual).
Marijus would plan to attend unless anyone spoke with him about their interest
- ii) Winnipeg Faith Properties - organization focused on assisting groups with their physical properties, considerations for community needs. Council agreed that continued attendance was not necessary.

Chair - Supply ministry needs moving forward. Ron has indicated his preference to receive an honorarium rather than payment for communions over which he presides. Council agreed that this is satisfactory.

b) Worship - no report provided but council noted that a chair from the congregational reps is required (Melissa is ex-officio) and chair to be responsible for providing reports to council moving forward.

c) Pastor - No Report

7. Committee Reports:

- Social Ministry - see report
- Youth and Young Adult - see report

8. New Business

Call Process

Marijus presented recommendation for first contacts for Call Committee. Discussion occurred regarding options for alternates should any first choices refuse, but council in support of list as provided. Marijus to begin making calls in coming week, starting with (and acquiring acceptance) from a chair position before proceeding with further calls.

Adjournment 8:30PM

Finance Report

1. Audit Preparation

All the necessary documentation has been assembled for the Audit Committee to begin its review of the 2025 financials.

2. Tax Receipts

Charitable donation tax receipts for 2025 were generated on February 2. They are available for pick-up in the Parish Hall. Those not claimed by February 24 will be mailed.

3. January Financials

General offerings were up in January compared to the same period last year. Overall income is down but the comparison is distorted by a lump sum of miscellaneous income received in January 2025. This was bequest money that was eventually transferred to a liability fund.

Also of note: Archimedes Math has prepaid its facility rental fee for the period January – May in one lump sum.

	2026	2025
4000 General Offerings		
4000.1 Envelope Offerings	1,380.00	1,945.00
4000.2 PAD Offerings	13,291.00	12,610.00
4000.3 Electronic Transfers	3,915.00	1,605.00
4000.4 Loose Offerings	45.00	50.00
4000.6 Fr. Charitable Organization		24.00
Total for 4000 General Offerings	\$18,631.00	\$16,234.00
4603 Other Income		
4603.1 Facility Rentals	1,985.00	741.00
4603.5 Misc. Income		5,021.52
Total for 4603 Other Income	\$1,985.00	\$5,762.52
Total for Income	\$20,616.00	\$21,996.52

Expenses for January year-over year are flat. Again, there are distorting items. In 2025, we did not make benevolence payments to the Synod until the end of the end of first quarter. This year, we will be disbursing funds to the Synod **monthly**.

The final cost of the farewell luncheon for Pastor Schmiedge was \$1,272.

Overall, income exceeded expenses by \$587.

4. Bequests

Bequests were received from the Bendinger and Taylor estates in December 2025 totalling \$4,000. These funds have been temporarily parked in the Memorial Fund. By resolution of council, transfers could be made to a different designated fund. A possible destination might be the Capital Works Fund.

5. Insurance Renewal

We have submitted an updated Statement of Value for renewal of our property and liability insurance in line with values recommended by AON. Stated values for 2026 will be:

Building \$4,888,057

Contents \$585,054

These updated values represent a 7% increase over what was stated on 2025 renewal.

Thanks to Cole for completing the necessary paperwork.

Submitted by:
Brian Lorch
Treasurer

Council Chair Report

For February 17, 2026

Submitted by Marijus Timmerman

The following are the actions of significance since the last Council meeting January 13, 2026:

In writing this report I give thanks to the many people of this congregation who are purposefully dedicated to seeing the mission of our church continue with or without a full time Pastor, with or without a hired office administrator. The time, talents and goodwill of these people of course cannot last forever so we work towards easing their burdens and resolving our needs.

Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Zsofi officially completed her call on January 15, 2026. A brief meeting to collect keys and share last bits of information occurred January 14, 2026.

A meeting with Reverend Vincent Solomon occurred on the afternoon of January 28. Reverend Solomon, Brian, Melissa and I discussed the role and expectations of an half-time interim pastor and concluded the meeting with some concrete expectations and an understanding that responsibilities will evolve with time. A starting date of March 1, 2026 was set for the interim pastoral term and Reverend Solomon agreed to preside at the Ash Wednesday service as a supply pastor.

A contract was received from Bishop Jason on February 12 regarding Rev. Solomon's interim pastoral position at St. Mark's and is in the process of being signed by the interested parties.

Office Administrator

John Himes completed his role as Office Administrator on January 15, 2026. Thankfully, Rhonda Lorch has volunteered to do many of the tasks required in the office.

Worship Committee

I was pleased and grateful to attend the Worship Committee meeting on January 19 where the newly formed group set their course for considering all things worship related. I was able to share some of the things council was doing in terms of pastoral leadership and the call process. It is notable that some congregational concerns have already been addressed and thanks from a congregation member was received.

Social Ministry

As the Social Ministry Committee prepares to launch their new focus on Lake Chad Recovery, I was able to liaise with groups involved and provide the Councils perspective on certain matters.

Call Process

A proposal for proceeding with the Call Committee Selection has been produced and shared with council.

Other Items

Through discussion with Pastor Zsofi prior to her departure and checking the Pastors computer for required or overlooked items there are a couple of initiatives which Pastor Zsofi was involved in which will require a decision regarding continued participation.

Social Ministry Committee Report

February 5, 2026

- 1. Harvest Manitoba:** Nine St. Mark's members did a volunteer shift at Harvest in January that was organized by Social Ministry. This initiative has become popular in recent months as we are starting to develop a wait list of people who are interested (group sizes are limited to ten).

Two more food deliveries were made to Harvest from our bin since our last report.

- 2. Reconciliation:** An article was placed in the E-News about the book "52 Ways to Reconcile" and the seminar on this topic which committee members attended. Connected to this book, we advertised an event held January 23 through 25 which touched on two of these suggestions: support an Indigenous musician and attend a gathering. The 30th anniversary of the 1995 Sacred Assembly was an opportunity to honour the pivotal moment that brought together Indigenous leaders and faith communities with a shared vision for healing and reconciliation and to renew those commitments in today's context. The event also included a concert by Indigenous artist "Broken Walls".
- 3. CLWR Project:** Several meetings and numerous online and offline discussions have been held to plan the CLWR Friends of Creation Project.
 - The outline of project activities and our coordination with other sectors of the congregation is detailed in the accompanying document.
 - Note the request for council to have Pastor Vince lead the September service.
 - CLWR has set up a fundraising web page dedicated to St. Mark's which is now operational.
 - CLWR has agreed that we can remit donations received by cash, cheque or e-transfer to CLWR on a monthly basis.
 - Since E-News readership is low and the existing church whiteboard and cork board are not very accessible due to food table locations, we purchased a moveable display board for the church hall to mount project information on as the project progresses, including funds raised. The board is intended to be

used for other Social Ministry initiatives in future and can be used by other groups to advertise church activities.

- Committee members attended a CLWR webinar on January 31st regarding building resiliency in African countries, including Chad, through nature-based solutions.

- 4. Refugee Sponsorship:** An article was placed in the Feb 6th E-News regarding the still incomplete processing of the refugee application for the Magribi family and encouraging St. Mark's members to write to their local MPs (form letter provided) to help speed the process.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Jennifer Moroz, chairperson

Friends Of Creation (Foc) Project Outline

Introduction of Project:

Sunday, February 15 (Sunday before Ash Wednesday)

- Announcement by Committee at beginning of service generally introducing project (which runs Feb 18 through Oct 31) and showing CLWR video (3 minutes)
- Youth leader Mabel Harrington has no concerns with this taking place at beginning of youth service
- Coordinated with Melissa (date, video)
 - Display board will be in church hall with information on Project

LENTEN SESSIONS

a. FOC 1 Saturday February 21 (9:00 – 10:30)

- St. Mark's Breakfast with CLWR speaker, Tyler Braun
- Theme will be to learn about climate change impact on Lake Chad and residents as well as restoration techniques.
- Donation envelopes, QR code will be available at event
- Advertised in Synod E-News with link to St. Mark's fundraising web page
- Coordinated with Ron Long

b. FOC 2: Sunday, March 22

- Theme: Climate and Food
- Social Ministry Committee to lead service, including sermon
- Cyan Gargol will do children's message

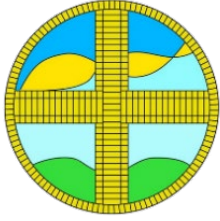
- CLWR resources available for : readings, sermon outline, prayer, children's time, Sunday School activity
- Worship committee has proposed a plan for the service to incorporate the theme using CLWR resources

SEASON OF CREATION SESSIONS

- c. **FOC 3: September _ Come Together Sunday (Date to be determined by Worship Committee)**
 - Theme: Climate and Water
 - Committee proposes Pastor Vince to lead service
 - Committee will try to arrange Raymond Ngarboui (Rainbow Community Gardens) to speak instead of sermon
 - CLWR resources available for readings, children's time
 - Service elements to be coordinated with Worship Committee
- d. **FOC 4: October 4 (Sunday prior to Thanksgiving)**
 - Theme: Climate and Peace (tentatively)
 - Leadership of service to be determined
 - CLWR resources available for readings, prayer, children's time and sermon
 - Service elements to be coordinated with Worship Committee

Congregational Activities

Lenten Session: Zero food waste challenge plus Harvest Food Drive
 Season of Creation: Community clean-up



Youth & Young Adult Ministry Committee

St. Mark's Lutheran Church (SMLC) Winnipeg MB

Committee Meeting February 4, 2025, 7:00pm Please advise writer of any errors or omissions

Lawrence Gargol LG, co-chair	Rachel Martens RM	Mabel Harrington MH
Annette Gargol Ag, co-chair	Brenda Catchpole BC	

In attendance / regrets

Item	Action by
1 Opening Prayer / Agenda Review .1 Opening prayer .2 Agenda review & update & guest introduction .3 Subcommittee Review: Confirmation/Youth/Young Adults .4 Budget & expenditures review .5 Other .6 Closing	Info
2 Subcommittees Review (see also attached notes)	
.1 Confirmation reviewed as follows:	Info
.1 Schedule: Winter Jan 11 – Feb 8, Spring Apr 12- May 3, all at Faith	
.2 Prayer Partner program to be reviewed	BC
.3 WinterQuest Feb Synod Ministry Event for this age - cancelled	Info
.2 Youth reviewed as follows:	
.1 Activities are planned & ongoing as per attached summary. Reports are positive and the work of leaders is appreciated and to be commended.	Info
.2 Luther Village Thanksgiving retreat went well.	Info
.3 November 1 leadership symposium / seminar attended by Rachel and Mabel reported as informative and enjoyable. Ideas for wider Church collaboration on youth events was discussed. A balance between wider groups and SMLC to be considered.	Info
.4 A youth bulletin board will be set up using vacant board space.	RM/MH
.5 Youth led service February 15 th planning is underway.	Info
.6 Easter Brunch to proceed as last year; grocery list to be reviewed.	LG
.7 Sleepover events & SMLC vulnerable person policy (VPP) discussed; guidelines of VPP appear adaptable to support future event. Key item is two unrelated adults with record checks in place as supervisors which is met. VPP to be attached to minutes	Info / Ag
.8 Fundraiser summary as per attached and below:	
.1 Raffle basket donations are underway. License application needed soon. Ag to advise of application questions requiring decisions.	Ag/ Info
.2 Glenlea plant sale will begin soon; delivery date is May 23 rd . youth to set-up and attend table with information. Ordering to be online only. Lg to issue eNews item and follow-up with the lone paper order person.	LG/Info
.3 CLAY 2027 Nanaimo BC – more thoughts about additional fundraising needs consideration.	All
.3 Young Adult (YA) Committee reviewed as follows:	
.1 Another event is under consideration for spring	BC
3 Leadership	
.1 Leadership discussed as Mabel and Rachel consider future roles & involvement. All agreed that the leadership roles are flexible and can be adjusted to suit individuals needs / preferences.	Info
1 Additional support for trip / CLAY was identified as needed for 2027 CLAY. Travel responsibility has been a source of stress for leaders. It was agreed that mandatory CLAY attendance for leaders does not need to be a thing. Expanding leadership support for trip including parents and church members to be undertaken.	Ag/LG/BC
.2 Discussions about increased responsibility for Michael & Taus to be considered.	RM/MH

	.2	Annual Report to Council required this month	Ag
	.3	Council chair /Marius to be asked about Leaders church keys for Leaders	LG
4.		Budget & expenditures review: generally unchanged going forward.	Info
4		Closing Prayer	Info
5		Next Meeting – tbd	Info
Distribution: - all Committee members - SMLC Council Chair, Marijus Timmerman			
Attachments: - SMLC VPP - Confirmation Notes -Youth Events Lists -Youth Fundraiser List			

Confirmation Notes:	
2023 confirmands / Class of 2026	Meadow Reider, Suri Kristenson, Henry Harrington, Eric Wegert, Sarah Gingrich
2024 confirmand	Jaina Hughesman
2025 confirmand	Sari Reider
2026 confirmands 25/26 2 nd yrs	Ashton Saunders Mariela Kisoso Jackson Palmer Matthew Rach
?	Jacob Dale Abigail Mann Callan McNaught Brenden Sherlock Jens Kristenson
2027 confirmands 25/26 1 st yrs	Maximillian Schweizer Sophie Schweizer Aiden Downie Koen Mann Bodi Hoas
?	Sarah Charleson Isaac Hughesman Daniel (Charleson?) Ashlyn Hoas Bridget Ring

2025/26 Youth Events			
September 13 27	Games Night & Worship Escape Room	February 16 27	Festival du Voyageur Synod Event
October 10-13 25	LV Thanksgiving Retreat A Maze in Corn	March 1 21	Forks/HMR TBD (Congregational Youth Event?)
November 8 22	Siloam Mission Volunteering Powerpoint Night	April 5 18	Easter Brunch (prep on 4 th) TBD
December 6 19	Holiday Party - Cookie Decorating Birds Hill sleigh ride w SLAW	May 2 23	Quiz Night Fundraiser Volunteering - Take Pride Wpg
January 10 31	Volunteer at MB Harvest w Faith Worship & Games Night	June 7 27	Pride Parade Wind up event

Synod Events	
	March 21 SATURDAY Koinonia* Games! 11:00-2:00 pm (lunch included) \$10/person suggested Location: TBD *Koinonia is a Greek word that means ‘community.’ This event is especially for students in grades 2-6 who are beginning to find their way in the faith community. Activities, discussion, food and interactive worship for younger youth. Parents are welcome to participate.
	April 11 SATURDAY Sleep In Heavenly Peace—bed building day Faith Lutheran Church Time TBD *for youth/young adults, age 16-30, Join Faith Lutheran Church for a service day of building beds
	April 24-26 WEEKEND Rhythms of Renewal—youth leaders’ retreat for Lutheran/Anglican Youth Leaders Location: TBD (Theme: Rhythms of Renewal 2026) (Synod expected to cover costs) Registration cost: \$325 (+ flights / travel)

Youth Fundraising						
2024	Easter Brunch	\$399.39	Glenlea Spring	\$786.75		
	Quiz Night txts	\$800	Silent Auction	\$145		
	Gift Baskets	\$314	Sobey’s gift card	\$512		
2025	Gift Baskets/silent auction	160.00	Wall of Money	\$378.90		
	Quiz Night	1106.63	Matching grants	800.00		
	Spring Glenlea	567.34				
	Easter Brunch	383.60				
	Sobey’s gift card	\$390				
2026						