

BIG TIMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2025

Present: Lori Minette, Becky Frese, Meggen Whalin, Pastor Julia Seymour, Debbie Buerkle, Pat Leary, Einar Stene, Jeni Lannen, Judy Riter

Not Present: Kelli Brewer, Rusty Terland

President Lori Minette called the meeting to order at 6 pm, followed by devotions led by Pastor Julia.

Examples of Fulfilling our Mission include the Pop-Up Christmas play led by Pastor Julia, blankets made for PMC residents, decorating the PMC, the Advent Prayer booklet and the youth group's Thanksgiving dinner.

Treasurer's Report presented by Debbie was reviewed. The CD at Opportunity Bank is due December 22, 2025. The council chose to renew this CD for 10 months at 3.55%. Meggen moved to accept report as written and CD renewal with second by Einar. Council unanimously approved.

Committee Reports include **Pastor Julia's** announcement that Hearts and Hands Hospice is currently unavailable due to lack of nursing staff and probably the reason she is receiving more calls from throughout the community for assistance. Pastor and her family will be secluded for family time December 30, 2025 through January 2, 2026 but can be reached if necessary. **Music and Worship Committee** met last week and made plans for future activities for Epiphany and Lent. **Education** continues with our confirmation groups and Bible study. Becky reported the **Mission Committee** will be delivering blankets to PMC residents and decorating their doors this week. The committee will meet early in January. Pastor Julia requested that she write a letter to the Bishop on behalf of our congregation asking the intentions of funds we've given for the Rocky Boy home improvement project. Council gave her their approval and support. **Property Committee** informed council that a carpeting quote for the sanctuary has been received, but no details are available until they meet. **WELCA** reported a successful Christmas Tea with fewer in attendance than previous years. Sign-ups for serving coffee after service is no longer for a month, but individual Sundays. This will hopefully encourage more members to volunteer. Ladies are looking to purchase a new dishwasher and have estimate of \$5000 to \$6000 cost. WELCA can finance half and hope the church can do the other half. **President's Report** stated some members of the Grant Committee met and plan to meet again before the end of December. Chamber of Commerce membership renewal was discussed. A motion by Pat, seconded by Meggen to join at Simple Level at cost of \$150 was unanimously approved.

Old Business: A discussion was held concerning council member replacements for Kelli, Rusty and Judy (terms ending). Al Buerkle's term is up on Endowment Committee so he will also need to be replacement.

New Business: Discussion held concerning the large tree in front of church that was blown down last night. Alan Gilbert was contacted and estimated removal cost of this tree at \$3500. While on the property, Alan also checked our other trees and informed Pastor that the large tree to the west is "lifting" (ground cracking, roots weakened). Einar made the motion, with second by Becky to have Alan Gilbert remove both trees. Council unanimously approved. The council accepted Cheryll Bratvold's generous offer to pay for 'downed' tree removal with second tree being church's responsibility.

The council worked on the proposed 2026 Budget to be presented to the congregation. Pat made motion, seconded by Becky to present budget as proposed at annual meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Unanimous approval.

Einar moved with Jeni's second to give all church staff Christmas bonus with total being \$1300. Council unanimously approved.

Our next meeting will be January 15, 2026, with Lori leading devotions. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Riter, Secretary