

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes — May 19, 2026

Attendance:

Present	Absent
Pastor Ryan, Gary Engen, Ron Huesman, Marilyn Quarberg, Ben Schnabel, Cheryl Rogge, Marj Efteland, Karn Matthews, Mickey Sonderman	Pastor Katie, Julie Jordan, Ivan Alderink, Jackie Peterson, Gary Peterson

1. Opening & Devotions

- Call to Order: Gary Engen called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.
- Devotions: Pastor Ryan led the opening devotion with a reading from Jeremiah 29:11, emphasizing that as leaders we should trust in God for the future, let go of fear, and lead with a message of love.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the April 21, 2026, Council meeting were reviewed.
- Motion: Mickey Sonderman moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Karn Matthews. Motion approved.

3. Financial Update

- Ben Schnabel. provided an update on the year-to-date actuals (income minus expenses).
- Current Status: The church is currently about \$16,000 behind last year due to increased expenses and decreased revenue. The Council will continue to monitor the situation and determine in September if special fundraising is required.
- Motion: Cheryl Rogge moved to approve the financial report; seconded by Ron Huesman. Motion approved.

4. Pastor's and Staff Reports

- Pastor Ryan: Provided a written and verbal update. Highlights included:
 - Led a 3-part study on Christian Nationalism (over 50 in-person attendees plus online; recordings are on the ASLC YouTube channel).
 - Currently updating the ASLC Personnel policy and Memorial Committee documents.
 - Noted that new front doors and card readers with enhanced security will be installed this fall.

- Announced volunteer appreciation cookies will be served after church on May 31. This sparked a broader Council discussion on how to best focus on and show appreciation for ASLC volunteers.
- Pastor Katie: Provided a written report detailing her activities (preaching, Bible studies, pastoral care, and VBS planning). She was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the St. Paul Area Synod's *Planting Hope Campaign*, which will fund the Neighborhood Family Fun Night and keep VBS free.
- Youth Ministry (Alex and Josh Ertz): Provided a written report on youth activities. A new Gaga pit is being ordered, and multiple youth events are planned for this summer.

5. Business / Action Items

A. Sanctuary of Safety (Security Proposals)

- Gary Engen provided council with an update. A team consisting of Gary, Jim Schlotterback, Gary Cox, Pastor Ryan, and Alex Ertz reviewed revised proposals from two suppliers. Of the two, it was recommended to council that Lloyds was the top choice due to lower costs and more features. The project includes new front doors, rekeying all doors, video storage, a longer warranty, and software access for door control via fobs/phone apps.
- Motion: Karn Matthews moved to accept the Lloyds proposal and authorize Alex Ertz (Administrative Assistant) to sign on behalf of the church; seconded by Cheryl Rogge. Motion approved.

B. Policy Updates

- Personnel Policy: No new updates; work will be done in June.
- Memorial Fund Committee: No new updates; work will be done in June.

C. Committee Restructure Task Force 2026

- The Council reviewed the status of current committees (functioning, needing adjustments, or inactive).
- Proposed Structure: Combine Youth and Children's into a single *Children's, Youth, and Family Committee*; move portions of Evangelism into a new *Welcome Committee* and *Events Committee*; dissolve the *Adult Education Committee* and shift that function directly to the Pastor's responsibilities.
- Timeline: Council will review this work again in June, aiming to have the new structure filled and active by February.

6. Old Business, Concerns, or Suggestions

- Cheryl Rogge noted that it has been one year without children and family programming. It was suggested to add this to the June agenda to address required resources.

7. Adjournment

- Closing: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
- Adjourned: 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ron Huesman, Secretary.