

2026 Annual Meeting Minutes - North Buffalo Lutheran Church - Sunday Feb 1st. 2026

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Larry Anderson at 10:38am and a quorum was met. Tracy Ellenbaum-Kleespies moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mike Kvanvig. **Motion Carried.**

Church Secretary Brian Kleespies read the minutes from the January 2025 Annual Church Meeting. Alex Swanson moved to approve the minutes, and Kelly Ring seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Mark talked about having a grateful heart, and said it was nice to know our 70 Church families all personally. He thanked the Council members for their work as well as thanked council members that are rolling off committees going forward. He said he was very thankful for all of the current and past contributors that have made North Buffalo special, including those from Paul Fossum, Karen Harmonson, Mike Kvanvig and Gary Sauter. He also said the 20th anniversary presentation was very special and thanked all who were a part of it.

President's Report:

President Larry Anderson thanked the members for all that they do, from shoveling sidewalks, to serving meals. He said he so appreciates all of our volunteers, as they are a huge part of North Buffalo.

Financial Review:

In the absence of the Audit Committee members Paul Fossum and Loren Ingebretsen, Alex Swanson read their Auditor's opinion statement. Per the letter, Paul Fossum and Laren Ingebretsen stated that based on the procedures performed, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the North Buffalo Lutheran Church as of 12/31/2025 and its revenue collected and expenses paid for the period then ended (*Refer to Financial Statements and Audit Opinion Letter in the documents for additional information).

Financial Statements: Alex Swanson went through the financial statements and end of year report for 2025. He highlighted a few key aspects, including Pastor Mark's salary and numbers that are arranged on the document as they are for tax purposes. He also mentioned coming in under budget for benevolences and education. He stated we came in well over budget on building expenses at approximately \$6700 vs. \$3500 based on some expenses related to mold remediation, some light remodeling, along with gas line installation for the griddles. He noted total income for the year at \$140,070.27 minus expenses of \$137,899.15 for a Net Profit of \$2171.13. Total funds available as of 12/31/2025 were \$155,977.33.

Alex mentioned that we have been pursuing a strategy of transferring our dollars into Certificates of Deposit when it makes sense (all currently on 7 month CD renewal periods).

Alex then reviewed the financials for the three Certificates of Deposit, the Memorial Fund, and the Orval Hurner Fund, and again explained that we have earmarked which funds have which balances, but that we will continue utilizing Certificates of Deposit to provide a greater return.

Committee Reports: Committee reports were listed within the annual report for the congregation. Anyone with questions should contact any member of the committees for further information.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

2026 Budget Approval - Alex Swanson spoke about the Proposed Budget for 2026, including Pastor Mark declining a raise for the upcoming year, recommendations for a 3 percent increase for the Organist, Custodial and Treasurer positions. He mentioned we moved the lawn care contract budget from \$3800 to \$4200. He also mentioned that based on the smaller size of Sunday School, they decided to drop the budgeted amount to \$1000. He mentioned the drastically rising building and related insurance premiums resulting in a proposed budget increase of \$4000 for 2026. Finally, he mentioned lowering the Social Media/Advertising budget amount as we have not been using close to the budget amount the past few years (*Refer to the 2026 Proposed Budget in the documents for additional information).

Brian Kleespies made a motion to approve the 2026 Proposed Budget, and Mike Kvanvig seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Elections of Church Council & Committee Additions

President Larry Anderson volunteered to be on the Nominating committee for another year, and he mentioned that we need to add one more person as well. Tracy-Ellenbaum Kleespies volunteered to be on another year as well. Mike Kvanvig also volunteered to be on the committee.

Alex mentioned that currently our bylaws do not allow for consecutive terms on the Nominating Committee, but after discussion, we asked him to work on an amendment to allow this in the future.

For the Auditing committee, Pastor Mark had said Loren indicated he wanted to continue for another year, and Tracy Ellenbaum-Kleespies also volunteered for this committee.

After discussion, we decided to do a combined motion (for Nominating and Auditing) to approve these new committee members. Alex Swanson made a motion to approve, and Calie Berg seconded. **Motion Carried.**

A motion was made to adjourn the annual meeting by Kelly Ring, and seconded by Jackie Petit. **Motion Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at **11:15am**. Pastor Mark led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Kleespies, Church Council Secretary