

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2025; 6:30 pm; Church Library

ATTENDANCE

Present: Fred Albert, Monica Baker, Karla Briggs, Jason Cornell, Keven Dahl, Karen Hansen, Megan Hutton, John Meagher, Ken Swanson

Staff: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Deacon Traci Vatne,

Guests: Carol Powers, Julie Williams, Gretchen Johnsrud and Hannah Johnsrud

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Albert at 6:32 pm.

Kevin Dahl opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the November 18, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the minutes as posted

Made by: Karen Hansen

Second: Megan Hutton

Action: Passed

Review and approval of written reports

Motion: Approve written reports.

Made by: Karla Briggs

Second: Kevin Dahl

Action: Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jason reported that we met our giving target for the month of November with the total revenue for November being \$85,492. Expenses were higher than expected because of the Chapel fire alarm/sprinklers inspections and repairs. We also paid for converting the parking lot lights to LEDs in November. Jason feels we are in a good position to end the year in good standing and should be able to fund year end bonuses for staff.

Motion: Set aside \$14,000 to be used for year-end bonuses for MVLC staff using the amounts paid last year as a guideline.

Made by: Megan Hutton

Second: Karla Briggs

Action: Passed

Karen Hansen and Jason have been looking into managing the Hamburg gift/scholarship fund. They explored the option to join a fund managed by a school district, but scholarship recipients are limited to students in the district.

Motion: Open an account with Thrivent Charitable to manage the scholarship fund.

Made by: Karen Hansen

Second: Kevin Dahl

Action: Passed

A copy of the minutes signed by council president Fred Albert and council secretary Monica Baker may be required to open the account.

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PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Eric

The Council reviewed the report Pastor Eric submitted while he shared that he is excited to report that a young adults group is developing

Fewer than expected applications for MEF grants have been received but each application has been approved.

Deacon Traci

The Council reviewed the report Deacon Traci submitted. This beautifully thoughtful report is the same that she has written to give Pastor Andrew a road map for his ministry to our youth.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – MEMBER DISPUTE

At 7:17 pm, Megan Hutton left the MVLC Library and the executive session started. The executive session continued until 7:50 pm.

The council meeting resumed at 7:55 with a short discussion about future agenda items including the necessity of developing a policy for immigration enforcement activities on the MVLC campus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Deacon Traci Vatne led the council in closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica K Baker, Secretary

Fred Albert, President

PASTORS' REPORTS

Pastor Eric's Report to the December Council:

- A new young adult small group has launched. The new small group includes new member Clayton and Kathryn Hashley, Kelvin and Angela Machumu, Eric and Janet Shephard, and Matthew Knierim. Additionally, this small group wants to organize fun, social outings open to more young adults from within Mt View or from the wider community. Clayton Hashley is the organizer, facilitator of the small group.
- Thank you to the Jason Cornell and the Finance Team for developing the 2026 spending guideline and for its successful vote on Nov 23.
- On Dec 8, the Season of Generosity pledges stand at 113 total pledges for a total dollar amount of \$657,228. We are one short of matching last year's total pledges and seven away from our stretch goal. Thank you to every family, couple, and individual that intentionally and prayerfully submitted a pledge of giving for 2026.
- Angelina Koenig, the new executive director at MVCC, met for an hour on Nov 26. She is a delightful human being and a creative, motivated leader. I look forward to Council members connecting with her in the near future. I would like to ask the Council to serve a Seeds of Change meal in 2026. Can we schedule this date together?
- On Nov 23, we welcomed 14 new members into our congregation. You will see their names and photos on the bulletin board and in the E-News. Please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome and seen in our congregation.
- Pastor Vance submitted the invoice for his services on behalf of the Church Wellness Network. The total bill comes to \$1,259.38. This is a relatively low cost for the great amount of help, counsel, and mediation that Pastor Vance provided our congregation.
- We've begun the onboarding process for Pastor Andrew. He's moved a few things into his new office. He is filling out the necessary paperwork. We are ordering him a new computer to be ready to go on Jan 1.
- Thank you for a weekend away to visit my sister Audrey in Rochester, MN to see her performance as Elsa in the musical Frozen. I also enjoyed the added bonus of attending St Olaf's Christmas Festival on this weekend.
- We assembled 115 seafarer kits on Nov 30th.

- Over 150 pairs of new underwear were donated on Undie Sundie. Gene and Karen Quandt drove these down to New Mexico to deliver to Border Servant Corps and distribute to detainees.
- We celebrate the baptism of Raydin Riley on Dec 14, the baptism of Owen Shephard on Dec 21, and Finn Swan on Dec 28.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Eric

Deacon Traci Vatne Council Report – December 2025

As I prepare to take my leave from you once again, I do so with a full heart—one that holds both gratitude and hope. Mountain View is a congregation deeply loved by God and richly blessed. You are in good hands with Pastor Eric and Pastor Andrew, with a devoted staff, with this council, and with the many people who worship, serve, and grow together in this place.

I offer the following reflections on Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry with deep affection for this community. Many of these thoughts were also shared with Pastor Andrew during our visit a few weeks ago.

Mountain View stands on a strong and faithful foundation when it comes to children and youth. At a time when many congregations struggle to gather young people at all—when Sunday School and Affirmation of Baptism have quietly faded in some places—it is a joy and a gift to see children and youth present in worship, engaged in learning, eager to serve, and showing up for one another. It has been especially meaningful to celebrate the baptisms of so many young people in recent months. These are holy moments, and they matter.

You are blessed with pastors who genuinely care for the children, youth, and families of this congregation. That care is felt, and it is shaping lives.

I must once again name what a gift **Deborah Vanderlay** is to Mountain View. Her leadership, her gentle and faithful presence, her love for the children, and her joy in sharing faith are evident in countless ways. She is a blessing to this congregation and to every child who learns and grows under her care.

The youth of Mountain View long for connection—with one another and with trusted adults. When they are given time and space to be together, they show up with open hearts. I encourage you to continue offering regular opportunities for gathering: monthly events for children, middle school youth, and high school youth, along with occasional opportunities for middle and high school students to come together. These shared moments build relationships and create space for faith to take root.

Several middle school and high school youth have expressed interest in opportunities for deeper conversation about faith—spaces where questions are welcomed and life and Jesus can be talked about honestly. A simple monthly gathering focused on discussion rather than curriculum could be a gentle and meaningful way to meet this longing.

Older youth are eager to lead, and when invited, they step forward with generosity and enthusiasm. Their leadership during Vacation Bible School was a beautiful example of this.

Continued opportunities to serve—as worship leaders, musicians, assistants in children's ministry, helpers in the Pray Ground, or leaders at family events—will nurture both their confidence and their faith.

There is comfort and wisdom in rhythm. Annual events such as Vacation Bible School, camps, mission trips, and retreats can become trusted landmarks in the life of families when they are offered consistently at the same time each year. These rhythms help families plan ahead and honor faith formation as a priority.

Affirmation of Baptism at Mountain View holds great promise and would benefit from renewed conversation and shared vision. This could be a meaningful opportunity for Pastor Andrew, mentors, and families to listen together for where the Spirit is leading.

I encourage continued participation in Synodical, Regional, and National ELCA youth opportunities. These gatherings remind young people that they belong to something far bigger than themselves or their home congregation. They build friendships, broaden faith, and deepen a sense of belonging in the wider church.

As young adults step into college and beyond, gentle guidance toward opportunities such as Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, campus ministry, and camp ministry can help them continue to see faith as a living, active part of their lives.

Service remains one of the most powerful teachers of faith. When youth and families serve together, they learn compassion, humility, and joy. They come to understand that following Jesus means loving the world God so dearly loves.

In another ministry setting, we framed youth ministry around four simple pillars: **Leadership, Fellowship, Faith, and Service**. This framework can be a helpful guide, ensuring that the life of the ministry remains balanced and rooted in Christ.

Finally, never underestimate the power of parents. You are blessed with parents who are deeply loved and trusted by the youth. Inviting them into mentoring and leadership strengthens relationships and builds a community where faith is shared across generations.

Thank you, Mountain View Lutheran Church. You have been a blessing to me, and I will carry this time with you in my heart with great fondness and gratitude.

I am yours in Christ,
Deacon Traci Vatne