

Parish Planning Council
February 12, 2026

Present: Ron Jung, Tom Wheeler, Larry Feight, Pastor Pullmann, John Diefenderfer, Diana Parks, Kerry and Luann Cutting.

Pastor Pullmann opened the meeting at 6:00pm with prayer.

Pastor Reflection: I have made a couple of visits to see Sharlene Anderson and we also need to think about the Holy Week schedule.

President's Update: John Diefenderfer reported there will be Senate Elections this year and Boulder will do the voting. A committee to revise the Zion Constitution will consist of Larry Feight, Kerry Cutting, John Diefenderfer and two members of the congregation. The Voter's Meeting for March will be on the 15th. Larry Feight will advertise the piano on Facebook Marketplace.

Treasurer's Report: Luann Cutting gave the treasurer's report, the only outstanding bill is Sacry Electric. Ron Jung moved to purchase a laptop computer with Quicken for the treasurer and maintaining reports inventory. Larry Feight seconded, motion carried with Kerry Cutting abstaining. The lift insurance will be due March 1st after the premium is established by Lightwell. We need to establish if our pianists are contractors or employees for payment purposes. John Diefenderfer and Luann Cutting are now authorized users of all bank accounts. The ACE and Smith accounts are the only ones set up for use, the 4 authorized users are Luann Cutting, John Diefenderfer, Ron Jung and Tom Wheeler. All preapproved purchase invoices and checks made out to family members of Zion's treasurer will be signed by John Diefenderfer per policy letter (see attached). There was a discussion of whether to install a floor safe or rent a lock box at the bank for important documents. Larry Feight made a motion to have Ron Jung contact seller to see if the floor safe is still available for \$75, Kerry Cutting seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board of Lay Ministry: Ron Jung suggested we have regular services during the winter months and in the Spring have joint services with Boulder every quarter. Pastor Pullman will check with Faith and work out the details with all involved elders. We will be having an Easter brunch after service on April 5th. Details will be forthcoming. It was suggested Mother's Day and Father's Day brunch be combined. If we can find no one to play the piano on February 22 we will use recorded music. Maxine Samuelson will be asked to update the member's address book and John Diefenderfer will purchase worship supplies from Concordia. Outdoor service dates were tabled.

Board of Property: Tom Wheeler presented a list of projects for 2026 and the future. I recommend the first thing we do is remove the tree and have the five fire extinguishers recharged and inspected. The removal of the tree is \$800 and \$400 to haul away, if we haul away, we save \$400. Mr. Hicks from Silver Star is licensed and insured. A motion for tree
Parish Planning Council February 12, 2026

Page 2

removal was made by Tom Wheeler and seconded by Kerry Cutting. Motion carried. If no one in the church is available to clean the church once a month we will seek outside assistance.

Board of Education: Kerry Cutting reported Sunday morning Bible Study will be starting the book of Job soon, Table Talk in April will be on stewardship. There will be no Table Talk in February or March.

Other Business: John Diefenderfer stated Service of Activities will include more involvement with the congregation. Pastor's office will also be set up to be more efficient. I would like to get a nicer desk, chairs and filing cabinets for his office. The congregation will be asked if they are willing to donate for this project. There is also a section in the Lutheran Reporter under "looking for" that we might be able to find something. Our Bibles are also going to need replacement; from Concordia we can replace 25 Bibles for \$188.

Pastor Pullman closed the meeting at 7:35pm with prayer.



Prepared by Diana Parks
Congregation Secretary

Attachment's enclosed:
Treasures Report
Church Projects
Treasurer & Family Purchasing Policy

Treasurer Report

*“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful”
(1 Cor 4:2)*

Account Balances - As of 2/11/2026

Account	2/11/2026 Balance
Bank Accounts	
LCEF - Building Fund	2,169.77
LCEF - Reserve Fund	2,059.41
Zion General Fund Valley Bank	40,000.00
Zion Savings Valley Bank	5,320.71
TOTAL Bank Accounts	49,549.89
OVERALL TOTAL	49,549.89

Spending by Category - Year to Date 1/1/2026 through 2/11/2026

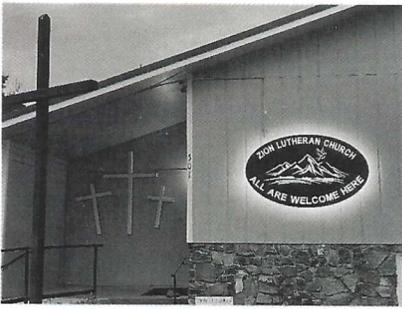
Uncategorized	0.00	Mission Offerings	100.00
Bills & Utilities	739.20	MT District	2,911.60
NW Energy	494.20	Congregation Plan of Support	625.00
Electric Service	360.37	Convention Assessment	216.60
Natural Gas	94.48	Mercy Fund	125.00
State and Local Taxes	39.35	Other	1,910.00
Town of Whitehall	245.00	Pastor Conference Assessment	35.00
Garbage	38.00	Pastoral	8,085.98
Sewer	65.00	Benefits	724.62
Water	142.00	Disability	28.65
Board of Christian Education	18.69	HSA Church Paid	43.47
Bible Study Material and Books	18.69	Medical	397.04
Board of Church Properties	9,109.62	Retirement	255.46
Church Equipment	199.98	Gift	50.00
Church Improvement	8,442.90	Housing	500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	466.74	Salary	2,800.00
Board of Elders	468.92	Vacancy Pastor	4,011.36
Church Subscriptions	18.92	Mileage	608.36
Pianist	450.00	Parsonage	680.60
Board of Fellowship	373.85	Salary	2,722.40
Special Event - Installation Service	373.85	OVERALL TOTAL	22,986.58
Church Office Supplies	1,178.72		
Office Supplies	630.00		
Other Church Office Supplies:Office Sup...	630.00		

Board of Church Properties

Updated: Feb 13th, 2026

Congregation Projects (Ongoing and in no particular order)

- ~~Removal of tree on SE Corner~~
 - *Professional service contacted, and tree removal will begin week of 23 Feb*
- Carpet install front and back
- Finnish LED lights upstairs
- Cross/Reader board electrical repair
- Repair Exterior Rock and Reader Board/Cross Marquis
- Replace Large South Window with more efficient one
- Pavillion Project
- Sidewalk crack repair
- Church inside/outside clean up
- Mailbox updated with current members
- Fire extinguisher repair/replacement (Approx \$14-20 per unit)
- Master Calendar of Service and Activities
- Pastor Study concerns
 - New Desk and Office chair
 - New Visitor chairs
 - New Filing Cabinets
- Chairs for Pews and Bible study
- ESV Bibles for Sanctuary and Bible Study
 - Approx 40-45 needed/ \$299.99 per 24 - (CPH)



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
301 1st Street West, P.O. Box 84
Whitehall, MT 59759**

RE: Zion Lutheran Church Policy Regarding -
Church Treasurer Request for Purchasing and Payment to Self or a Family Member

Most church treasurers find at some point they are in the position that an expense needs to be approved, and payment made to themselves or to a family member. It is expected that everyone will be acting in good faith on behalf of the church. This policy is for the protection of the Zion Lutheran Church congregation against embezzlement and for the protection of the treasurer against false accusation of wrongdoing. In such situations, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A non-family authority in the church (president or elder) must approve the invoice/payment voucher, and the check should be signed by a non-family member serving as an authorized signer on the church account. A person in this situation shall not approve or sign their own invoice or payment.
2. If an item or invoice is of large value (over \$1000.00), or an outside of budget item, the parish planning council will need to approve the item prior to purchasing with this information documented in the council meeting minutes. The invoice/payment shall still be signed by a non-family member serving as an authorized signer on the church account.

Effective 12 Jan 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Diefenderfer".

John Diefenderfer
President of Congregation

*Rev Gideon Pullmann – Pastor
(402) 243-3185
gideonpullmann@gmail.com*