

River Table Minutes
River of Hope Lutheran Church ELCA Hutchinson, Minnesota
Tuesday, August 12, 2025 5 p.m. Hutchinson Event Center

Present: Mary Royer, President; Pastor Hans Peterson; Arlyn DeBruyckere, Treasurer; Jim Schaefer, Vice-President; Geoff Davis, Dave Fischer, Patricia Paulsen, Kay Halstrom.

Absent: none

Opening Devotion: Pastor Hans, *Hebrews 12, v. 1 & 2*

Highs and Lows, Principles and Norms.

Approved River Table Minutes of July 1, 2025.

Reports

Financial Report: It's come to our attention that ELCA guidelines recommend receivables and payables not be handled by the same person. We'll do some more research. We were reminded that funds from our Global Refuge partner congregation are included as income in our finance reports.

June Income: \$24,447.61	July Income: \$23,442.74
June Expenditures: \$26,144.08	July Expenditures: \$25,910.14

The finance report was approved as presented.

Gathering Table, July 30, 2025 A significant change is Tables providing Wednesday evening meals for Headwaters. A schedule was provided:

September 17: Worship & Music	October 1: Parish Personnel
October 8: Pastor Hans & others	November 5: River Table
November 19: Vision Table	December 3: We Go Out
January 7: Faith Formation	January 28 Concert event: pizza
February 4: Meal Needed	Lent: Soup Suppers
April 15: Meal Needed	May 6: Men's Bible Study

We Go Out Table, July 21, 2025 They will be asking the congregation to share ways individuals are already serving the community.

Pottery Festival Reconciliation, July, 2025 Funded through a Thrivent Action Grant, total profit of \$450 was donated to Safe Avenues, an organization serving victims of domestic abuse. We are grateful to Ruth Hamlow for her leadership on this project.

Global Refuge by Zoom with Chairperson Heidi Morlock We intend to honor a 12 month commitment, then taper services in March, 2026. The designated funds cover monthly rent, internet, and some laundry expenses. The Circle of Welcome team at Calvary in Willmar is providing much of the day-to-day support, and is at times overwhelmed. There will be a team picnic Saturday, August 23. More detailed information will be provided to the congregation in our weekly communications.

Pastor's Report, August, 2025 Information was given regarding continuing education. A concert has been scheduled for January, and payment for the first half of the appearance fee was approved. m/s/p

Other Business

Stewardship: Work is being done to have a QR code for digital payments. A subgroup is researching finance software customized for churches.

Nominating: We are looking for people to join the River Table and other groups. Jim Schaefer spoke at a recent worship service asking for interested persons to contact him, and the message was shared in the electronic newsletter and Riversource.

Anniversary Service: The 15th Anniversary of River of Hope will be celebrated August 24 "at the river". Pastor Laura Aase will preach, and Pastor Tom Heyd and Pastor Linda Pederson will participate in the service. Watering can donations for a few weeks are an anniversary gift of gratitude, designated for House of Grace in Montrose, an ELCA outreach mission church.

Facility Use Policy: This is a new project, and we'll look into ELCA guidelines as part of the process. As renters, we'll also review how our Liability Insurance may be a factor. A subcommittee was proposed.

Adult and Youth Safety Policy: We have a policy but it hasn't been reviewed for quite a while. A subcommittee was proposed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 5 p.m. Hutchinson Event Center

Closing: *The Lord's Prayer*

Submitted by Patricia Paulsen