



# HILSEN

**FEBUARY 2026**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office / Folk School

(507) 247-3000

[office@danebodlutheran.org](mailto:office@danebodlutheran.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9-2

Wednesday 9-2

Thursday 9-2

Friday 9-12

If you have questions, ideas or pastoral care concerns, please reach out to Pastor Megan by calling or stopping in the main office.

## Spiritual Shortcuts: Our 2026 Lenten Journey

### *A Message from Pastor Megan*

Anyone who has even gone on a family road trip, a solo hike, or really any other kind of journey has probably heard the adage “shortcuts make long delays.” In fact, if we are honest, most of us probably know the truth of this wisdom from personal experience and multiple tests of the theory.

Shortcuts are tempting for their efficiency. Especially today in the world of next-day delivery, instant downloads, automated services, and microwave meals, we have grown accustomed to having things faster and easier than ever before. This expectation has a way of seeping into other aspects of our lives. It’s like, since we no longer have to wait ages for the bath water to heat up or for our mail to come from overseas, we no longer have the practice with or capacity for the process of getting from ‘A’ to ‘B’ when it comes to other developments worth waiting for.

Spiritual development is one such journey where shortcuts are likely to make long delays. Particularly in seasons when we long for God the most or when our busy lives spread us too thin for time, finding and following a pathway to God becomes an almost subconscious, automated task—the kind we may put on autopilot or autopay for the fastest, most effective result. Society is hip to this trend. Pop-psychology and the *New York Times Bestseller List* are packed with pithy titles for self-awakening or finding faith in just X simple steps. To be fair, many of their tips and tricks are rooted in interfaith practices preached by world religions for centuries, including Christianity. What’s more, these practices have served as self-grounding, community-building, divine-reaching pathways of spiritual innovation for some of the most revered role models of faith, from Buddha to Martin Luther.

So what exactly makes the difference between a popularized, stunted shortcut to faith vs. a transformative, innovative spiritual practice? This is the founding question for our Wednesday night Lenten worship this spring at Danebod. Beginning on Ash Wednesday we will gather for midweek evening worship and reflection on how we’re navigating our personal and communal journeys of faith. Lent, after all, is our annual time for slowing down to reflect on our relationships with the Triune God. It is our space for taking both that which is flourishing and that which is failing, turning it all over to God for cleansing, renewal, and reinvigoration, hopefully in a way that truly does shorten the distance we feel between ourselves and our Lord of Love.

Christ himself will serve as our ever-present, ever-faithful guide on this journey, for in his words “I am the way, the Truth, and the life...Come and Follow me.” (John 14:6 and 21:19).



## Minutes for Danebod Church Council January 13th, 2026

**PRESENT:** Erik Jorgensen (President), Julie Kent (Sec.), Jackie Hess, Ivan Petersen, Garth Jensen, Pastor Megan Eide, Joan Jagt, Deb Sinding, Erik Gile (VP), Rick Nielsen, and Heather Furan (Treasurer).

**NOT PRESENT:**

At 6:35 PM the meeting was called to order by Erik Jorgensen and a quorum was established.

1 additions was made to the agenda.

Devotions.

**REPORTS:**

1. Secretary's report for December was presented. MSC to approve December minutes made by Jackie and seconded by Joan.
2. Treasurer's report for December was presented. MSC to approve December minutes made by Ivan and seconded by Garth.
3. Pastor's report. Beautiful Christmas service. Faith and Fitness wrapped up for the winter with funds left to use yet. Held a service in the basement of the Folk School and it was beautiful. Spent time with youth. 19 new members in 2025. PHD Program started and it is fantastic.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Annual Meeting – February 8. For the Financial Advisory committee: Cheryl Vos will reup on the committee and Karen Koster will go on. We should have all committee members to be on a spreadsheet to see when people have gone on committees and how many years they have been on each committee. MSC to recommend Cheryl Vos and Karen Koster on the ballot for this year for the Financial Advisory Committee by Ivan and seconded by Joan.
2. Fire Department Walk Through – Fire Department is happy to do a walk through.
3. Budget Approval/Church – MSC to approve the budget by Deb and seconded by Garth.
4. Budget Approval/Folk School – MSC to accept the Folk School budget by Joan and seconded by Jackie.
5. Constitution Review Progress – Next meeting is January 29.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Fastelavn/Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Outreach providing the meal, Parish Ed doing crafts and desserts, and others are helping out too.
2. Lenten Suppers – Will have groups serve each month again and proceeds will go towards the ministry providing and serving the meal that night. Erik Gile will raffle 2 paintings again this year for the youth. Will do Holden Evening Prayer.
3. Maintenance Person Recruitment – 3 to 5 hours per week at \$20 per hour. We can see if there is interest.
4. Thank you – Thank you Joan and Erik G for your time on the Council.
5. Financial Advisory Distributions – MSC to approve the Eklund Fund Distributions by Erik G and seconded by Garth.

## **Committee Reports**

Administration (Joan Jagt, Erik Jorgensen, and Deb Sinding) –

Property (Garth Jensen & Erik Gile) – Working on the Parish Hall. Cans got hauled in.

Cemetery (Rick Nielsen and Garth Jensen) – No Report.

Parish Education & Youth Ministry (Erik Gile, Julie Kent, and Jackie Hess) – Started last week again.

Fastelavn will be February 11. Jumping For Jesus will be off during Lent so families can enjoy the meals and the kid-friendly activities available during the meal and service.

Outreach & Stewardship (Jackie Hess) – Supper for Danish Hotdogs for Fastlavn. Chili for Lenten Supper. Looking at doing special things for widows and first year college students over Valentine's Day.

Worship & Music (Julie Kent) – No report.

Folk School (Deb Sinding) – Application for chair lift is still being pursued. The dining area floor has been retreated. Air Conditioning units are a work in progress. Working on staffing for summer camps is progressing well.

Financial Advisory (Ivan Peterson) – Covered already.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM with Garth being the Council Communion Assistant.

MSC for adjournment at 8:24 PM by Ivan and seconded by Joan.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kent

# **Folk School Committee Meeting – Monday January 5, 2026**

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM and Jerry opened with the Lord's Prayer.

Present: Jerry Bly-Chairman, Mark Stage-Vice Chairman, JoAnn Peterson, Margie Bornhoft, Jill Jaspersen, Pastor Megan, Heather Furan-Treasurer, Brenda Knudson-FS Caretaker, Deb Sinding-Church Council Liaison  
Absent: Deb Burckhardt, Olga Ekberg, Arnie Dam, Cade Drake

## **December, 2025 Financial Reports**

1. Heather did not have all the December statements at the time of this meeting, therefore these reports will need to be updated with those interest figures for year-end report to be submitted for the annual report for annual meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

2. Discussion to give Heather authority to renew CD's coming due at the best rate offered.

**\*MSC by Pastor Megan and seconded by Margie to authorize Heather to renew CD's coming due at the best rate.**

**\*MSC by Margie and seconded by JoAnn to approve the December Financial Reports with year-end corrections for Annual Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Brenda's Updates**

1. Flooring is done.

2. Still waiting for Dean Brandt to give us prices on A/C units for kitchen and hallways upstairs. Margie will call Dean.

## **Pastor's Updates**

1. Faith and Fitness is done for this year and looking for it to start up again in the spring.

2. Mark Nielsen Funeral Service and Fellowship was held in the Folk School.

3. Holiday Happenings – Danish Supper was missed by many.

4. Annual Meeting will take place on February 8<sup>th</sup> in the Lecture Hall following Church Service.

## **Church Council Updates**

Eric will do walk through of properties with the Tyler Fire Department.

## **December FS Meeting Minutes**

**MSC by Pastor Megan and seconded by Mark to approved the December FS Meeting Minutes as presented.**

## **Upcoming Rentals**

1. January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Linda Ballard, Lodge, 2 rooms for 1 night

2. January 16-17<sup>th</sup> - Julie Kent, Commons area and Lodge, 4 rooms for 2 nights

## **2026 FS Budget**

Jerry presented the 2026 Folk School Budget. Discussion was held.

**MSC by Margie and seconded by Jill to submit the budget to church council as presented.**

## **Electric Chairlift Update**

Jill reported that she had been notified that the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry -

Access Review Board has denied the request for waiver and does not authorize the installation of a stairway chairlift. There were two reasons for the disapproval. One being there is already a ramp access to the basement and the second reason they stated was that we did not indicate any specific individuals who need the alternate means of access to that level of the school. We can submit a request for reconsideration to the

Access Review Board with more information regarding the two reasons for denial. Jill and Olga will work on this together and address the two issues.

### **Commercial Coffeemaker**

**MSC by Margie and seconded by JoAnn to go forward with getting commercial coffeemaker for FS Dining Hall and to request for support from Folk School Foundation.**

### **Other Business**

1. Request funds from Eklund Fund for A/C Units for Dining Hall Kitchen and upstairs hallways.
2. Church Annual Meeting to be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> following Church Service in the Lecture Hall.
3. Rental rates were discussed.

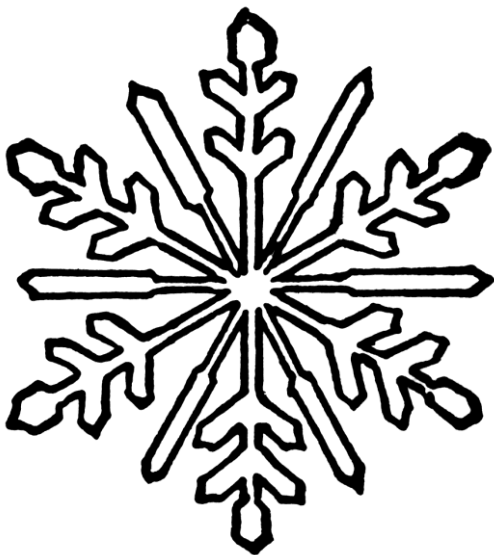
**MSC by Pastor Megan and seconded by Margie to raise rates as discussed for all new rentals going forward effective February 1st.**

4. Margie brought up staffing for upcoming summer season and that we should get started on getting staff positions filled soon.

**MSC by Jill and seconded by Margie to adjourne at 8:06 PM.**

Next Meeting will be February 9th at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Jaspersen



## **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

Snow removal at Danebod will be the same as in the past. The city windrows the snow to the middle of the street, Tony Dybdahl removes the windrow to the area east of the Folk School or between the parsonage and the gym hall, and Clair takes care of all of the sidewalks and steps. Please direct any concerns on snow removal throughout the winter to Harlan Petersen (507-828-2259) to avoid multiple calls to the contractor at very busy times. And please have patience.

**As of December 31, 2025**

Budget Year to Date \$186,803.00

General Fund Revenue to date 171,164.57\*

Amount Under Budget to date **\$ 11,773.36**

**Envelopes ONLY by month  
-To meet budget collections  
should be 15,557 per month**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
January	8,850.91	8,307.23
February	18,266.05	15,030.92
March	11,411.05	23,610.28
April	11,299.52	9,216.51
May	12,880.06	10,427.06
June	9,939.52	10,469.45
July	16,033.80	9,968.59
August	11,233.75	14,446.89
September	10,929.52	11,296.61
October	8,901.25	10,255.24
November	11,919.52	15,566.26
December	18,144.25	19,543.92
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>149,729.20</u></b>	<b><u>158,138.96</u></b>

**Envelopes ONLY for past 4 years as of  
December 31, 2024**

<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
158,138.96	159,431.57	128,811.08	126,014.24

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

*Brian Marten (relative of the Johnson and Nielsen families)*

*Cheryl Holt (friend of Clark family)*

*Dawson (nephew of Bethanni and Matt Jobe)*

*Bo Duncan*

*Mark Hembre (brother of Diane Clark)*

*Jalyn Burckhardt (granddaughter to Deb Burckhardt)*

*Harper Gravley*

*Betty Jo Solberg*

*Chris Nibbe*

## **Cemetery**

*In memory of Al Taylor from Karen Koster*

## **Parish Hall Fund**

*In memory of Mark Nielsen from Joan Jagt*

*In memory of Donna & Allen Svendsen from Pamela Blomgren*

**If you have any questions or concerns about your donation, please reach out directly to the main office.**

## **MISSION SUPPORT**

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Prayers for love & peace from Karlee Wyttenback

February 8<sup>th</sup>: *not yet spoken for*

February 15<sup>th</sup>: *not yet spoken for*

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: *not yet spoken for*

## YAGM Missionary of the Month

Have you ever looked at the back of the bulletin and wondered what Danebod's "Missionary Support" is all about? Every year, Danebod pledges \$1300 (\$25/week) to support ELCA missionaries in their Gospel word and service around the world. Specifically, our gifts go towards young people exploring their calls to ministry through Young Adults in Global Mission. YAGM invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in service to churches and non-profit organizations worldwide. For example...

Meet Ashely! Ashley serves with YAGM in Cambodia. Last month, she got to go on a with her ministry partners to Koh Kong. They renewed our spirits through a foot washing devotion, shared justice and injustice stories from the year, and honored Earth Day learning about nature and climate change in Cambodia.

To help support Ashley and others using their talents and faith in service to the world, consider signing up to cover a week of missionary support. The process is simple

1. Find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.
2. Choose an open week, perhaps one that has some significance to you and your family (i.e. an anniversary, birthday, memorial, etc.)
3. Write you name and any personal message you'd like to share in the bulletin (i.e. "Pastor Megan in honor of Nisse's birthday")
4. Submit a separate \$25 gift marked "mission support" at any time to the main office, in the offering plate, or online through the "give" button on our website.



## **Danebod Folk Meeting coming August 19-23, 2026**

You are invited to join us here on the Danebod Campus for the 80<sup>th</sup> annual Folk Meeting, August 19-23, 2026. Founded in the Danish folk school tradition of lifelong learning in community, the Folk Meeting attracts interesting people from across the country to a residential living, learning and socializing experience. Treat yourself to a break in August and join your fellow guests for three and a half days of learning, singing, story-telling, socializing, dining, and folk dancing. Or, if your schedule permits, join us in the church for our evening sessions.

Each year our Folk Meeting program seeks to offer a broad liberal arts curriculum. In 2026 you will engage with experts in a “prophecy” of economics, American political campaigns, and learning with Legos. You will have the opportunity to learn about chamber music, Danish author Louis Jensen’s “Square Stories,” and the responsibilities of the Danish Consul in Iowa.

Experiential learning workshops will spur your creative side with options for exploring the arts of paper-cutting, painting, making Danish pastry, writing poetry, savoring the magic of a nature walk, or honing your skills in folk dancing or wood-carving.

If you are interested in learning more about the Danebod Folk Meeting, visit our website at [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org). Registration materials will be available in early May.



YOU ARE INVITED TO



# FASTELAVN

Danish style hotdogs  
Costume contest  
Wooden barrels

Carnival games  
Cake walk  
Childrens crafts

*Wear a Costume!!!*

**Wednesday, February 11th**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM in the Gym Hall**

Fun for ALL ages!!!!

# Lent Suppers are BACK!

We are super excited to share that Wednesday Night Lenten Suppers will resume this year! This beloved tradition for the whole family takes place from 5:30-6:45PM in the Folk School Dining Hall. Drop in when you can for food, and send the kids to check out the activity tables in the back as well. You and your family are then invited to move over to the church for a simple, rejuvenating Holden Evening Prayer service from 7-7:30. A special kids bulletin will be provided. We begin the Wednesday after ash Wednesday.

While there is no cost required for the meal, free will donations at a suggested amount of \$5/person will go towards food expenses and the ministry providing that night's supper.

## MENU

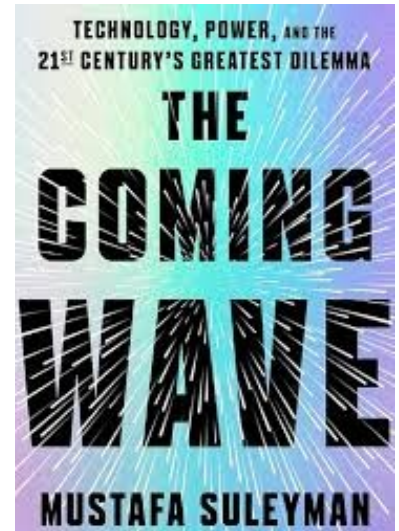
Date	Meal	Hosted By
Feb. 25	Pizza	Parish Ed.
March 4	Chili Cook-Off	Outreach Committee
March 11	BBQ	Quilters
March 18	Baked Potato Bar	WELCA
March 25	Pasta Bar	Youth Group



Also be sure to check out the original, framed and signed set of wildlife paintings by our own Erik Gile! Members of our youth group will be selling raffle tickets for \$10 each during the suppers. All proceeds will go towards future mission trips, retreats, and other youth events. The winner of the raffle will be drawn during supper on March 25<sup>th</sup>. You do not need to be present to win.

# NEW Book, NEW Time! Adult Ed. Spring 2026

Whether or not we consider ourselves technologically savvy, we live in a world profoundly shaped by and infused with major technological advancements. Over the last five years especially, the exponential achievements in artificial intelligence and biotechnology have radically reshaped how we work, learn, create, communicate, and imagine the future. Computers are both generating and solving many problems and questions long believed to be beyond the scope of mortal capabilities. The one thing this radicalizing tech cannot do for itself or us, however, is think ethically, holistically, and spiritually about what it means to approach this new era with morality and faith.



Written by the CEO of Microsoft AI and co-founder of Google DeepMind, Mustafa Suleyman's book *The Coming Wave: Technology, Power, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Greatest Dilemma* meets readers at an accessible, conversational level and leads them through the past developments and present dilemma of this wave of powerful, fast-proliferating technologies. In our Adult Ed. Meetings we will reflect on his insights and pair them with our own questions, experiences, and most importantly, our faith, in order to ultimately meditate on the question "What is the unique relevance and role of ordinary, good, faithful people in this extraordinary, intelligent, hi-tech world?"

**Adult Ed. meets in the Folk School on the second and fourth Weds of the month, 10-11 AM, beginning on Feb 11th.** Books will be provided with an optional donation of \$20. Sign up by contacting Pastor Megan or reaching out to the main office.

## *Thank You!*

Thank you Danebod for the scholarship! I will be using it next semester towards my early childhood education degree.

*-Tatum Hess*

There just aren't enough words to express our heartfelt thanks for all the memorials given in Gudmunds memory. It always was his wish that a new Parish Hall be built. Therefore our family appreciates the fact that his wish will be granted. We feel honored to be apart of the Danebod family. Gods blessings to everyone!

*-The Broin Family*



# February Ministry Team

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Lector:</b>	Jackie Hess	Karlee Wyttenback	Sian Dill	Sian Dill
<b>Ushers:</b>	Craig & Tifanie Hess	Daryl Hook	Craig & Tifanie Hess	Mike Wooge
	Trent & Jackie Hess	Tim & Julie Kent	Tim & Julie Kent	Tim & Julie Kent
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Karlee & Joyce Wyttenback	Kim Wooge	Kim Wooge	Kim Wooge
<b>Flowers:</b>	Amanda Drake	Amanada Drake	Lottie Petersen	Lottie Petersen
<b>Communion Helpers:</b>	Craig & Tifanie Hess	XXX	Craig & Tifanie Hess	XXX
		XXX		XXX
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	Julie Kent	Bev Gylling	Jackie Hess	Kay Wooge
		Tifanie Hess	Lottie Petersen	Cheryl Hook

WELCA Meeting and Valentine's Party on  
 Sunday, Feb 22 at 1:00 pm in the Folk School Dining Hall.

All are welcome!



# February 2026

Sun.                  Mon.                  Tue.                  Wed.                  Thurs.                  Fri.                  Sat.

1 <b>9:30 Worship: Kids Church</b> 10:30 Coffee	2	3	4 5:30 P.M JFJ 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	5	6	7
8 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Annual Meeting	9 6:00 PM Folk School Meeting	10 6:30 P.M Church Council Meeting	11 10 A.M Adult Ed 5:30 Fastelavn! 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	12 9:00 A.M Quilting	13	14
15 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Coffee	16	17	18 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	19	20	21
22 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Coffee <b>1:00 WELCA Meeting &amp; Valentines party</b>	23	24	25 10 A.M Adult Ed 5:30 PM Lent Supper 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer	26 9:00 A.M Quilting	27	28

## Danebod Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 8, 10:30AM, in the Folk School Lecture Hall

Attendance is required to establish a quorum.

Coffee and goodies will be served!



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