

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 17, 2025



Gathered at 5:30 p.m. for Social Time

Devotions - Christina Fashner read a prayer she wrote:

Heavenly Father,
We pray for the leaders of our world, nation, state, and church...
Help us to love one another in these times, and to always seek the good in others,
Help us to be glad in our lives, despite our circumstance,
Help us to find contentment during uncertainty, and unity during divisiveness,
Help us to be slow to speak, and slow to anger,
Help us to be merciful, sweet, and tender to those who would oppose us,
Help us to be generous and open-hearted with those less fortunate than us,
Help us to be dependable, loyal, and trustworthy neighbors of this planet,
Help us to remain humble, stay calm, and become non-threatening peoples,
Help us to control ourselves in these troubled times.
Lord, Help Us.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Call to Order: Called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Council President Christina Fashner

Attendance: Present: Andy Buccanerro, Carole England, Christina Fashner, Steve Greseth, Thomas Stoyke, Christ Timmons, Pastor Carrie Stiles, Pastor Dale Stiles. **Absent:** Chris Jenelle, Karen Rozeske, Kimberly Bahls

Consent Agenda: A motion to accept the agenda was made by Christina Fashner and seconded by Andy Buccanerro. Motion carried.

Affirmations

- All those preparing and decorating for VBS: Joanna and the Kroschel family, Kathie Marabella, Lucy Stoyke, Piper and Jorita Peterson
- Steve Greseth and Myron Carpenter for clearing trees, brush, and planting hostas
- All who made root beer floats

Treasurer's Report: Given our current general fund giving trends and the typical seasonal dip in summer offerings, bookkeeper Chris Timmons and Treasurer Andy Buccanerro will meet with the bank to explore potential Line of Credit options, if needed. This step was approved by the congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 29 in anticipation of possible cash flow needs, though we expected the need to arise much earlier in the year, so this timing is a positive sign. Chris and Andy will report back to the Council at our July meeting.

Financial Update Through 5/31/2025	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$97,443
Total Revenue	\$181,114
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$122,004
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$187,889
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	-\$6,775
Mortgage Balance	\$67,247
Edward Jones Balance	\$54,761

Pastor Dale's Monthly Report

Recent Highlights:

- April 14–16 – Annual Spring Clean-Up
- April 23 – FMSC Mobile Food Pack at Hosanna Lutheran
- April 27 – Creation Care Sunday (introduced mug tree – thank you, Chris Timmons!), New Member Reception (16 new members), Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup (thanks to the Stoyke family)
- May 4 – Baptism of Mona Olson
- May 10 – Mother's Day Spring Festival & Plant Sale (partnered with LADC)
- May 12–16 – Continuing Education: Festival of Homiletics (Atlanta)
- May 16–17 – Synod Assembly (Delegates: Katie Fetterly & Arlie Post; Visitor: Carole England)
- May 18 – Confirmation: Abigail Rauner & Sam Kroschel; Garding/Olson Wedding
- May 19–25 – Vacation (Guest Pastor Emily Rova-Hegener, May 25)
- June 1 – First Outdoor Worship
- June 8 – Pentecost Sunday
- June 15 – Outdoor Worship moved indoors (weather)
- Church Office Update – Installed unused flatscreen TV for scrolling announcements

Looking Ahead:

- June 19 & 26 – Campfire & S'mores Evenings
- June 23–27 – VBS: "True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World"
- June 29 – Guest Worship Band: Cornerstone
- July 12 – Adult Bible Study & Potluck

Ongoing Ministry:

- Mortgage Appeal outreach
- Bible Study, HEAL Grief Group
- Facility Maintenance
- LADC Chapel (on summer break)
- Social Media Updates

- Worship Planning
- Pastoral Care
- Redevelopment Pastors Gathering (paused)

Pastor Carrie's Monthly Report

Appreciation:

- VBS preparation: Joanna and the Kroschel family, Kathie Marabella, Lucy Stoyke, and other contributors

Highlights:

- First Communion (6 youth)
- Flower Sale
- Holy Week: Youth Stations & Easter
- Creation Care Sunday
- Festival of Homiletics
- Council Retreat
- Preschool Graduation
- Synod Assembly at St. Andrew's
- Confirmation Service
- Wild Faith for Littles with Christina
- Pancake Breakfast for Mission Trip
- Lake Wapogasset Board Meeting

Ongoing:

- Preaching, Pastoral Care
- LADC Chapel and Leadership
- Spiritual Direction Group
- Synod Prayer Team
- HEAL Grief Group
- Creation Care Team
- Weekly Cleaning Coordination

Upcoming:

- Summer Campfires
- Youth Mission Trip: Milwaukee (Aug 3–8)
- Bible Camp at Lake Wapogasset
- VBS: June 23–27

New Business

- **Church Property Vision Update:** Team members, Pastors, and Christina shared a brief update from the May 29 Church Property Vision Team meeting. The team reviewed several land use concepts proposed by a potential partner, with particular interest in 55+ senior housing models. The team currently favors selling the land outright, rather than leasing, to simplify responsibilities and support a mission-aligned

development. There is also interest in potential shared space or partnership opportunities. Pastor Dale has followed up with this potential partner for more details ahead of the next team meeting (June 23), where a S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis will be led by team member Wendy Hazard to support continued discernment. There is still no official timeline—this process remains exploratory. It was noted that the potential partner recently became aware their possible involvement was mentioned publicly. Because these conversations are still in early stages and not yet shared within their internal team, they have respectfully requested: That no further public mentions or printed references be made at this time, and that we manage messaging carefully until a more defined proposal is developed. Moving forward, we will refer to them as a potential partner until a pre-development agreement is reached.

- **Mission Support Celebration Dinner – August 18:** The Saint Paul Area Synod invites us to a Mission Support Celebration Dinner on Monday, August 18, from 6–8 p.m. at St. Andrew’s, Mahtomedi. As a redevelopment congregation, it is important to be represented. Christina and Andrew Fashner, along with Pastors Carrie and Dale, plan to attend and express thanks.
- **New Little Free Library – Location & Next Steps:** Steve England is building a Little Free Library as a gift to the church and community. The newly formed Hospitality Team will maintain it. Pastor Carrie will ensure it is registered nationally. A motion to approve the project and its location was made by Christina Fashner, seconded by Thomas Stoyke. Motion passed.

Action Items *(Based on New Ministry & Mission Goals)*

- **Hospitality Team:**
 - **Focus:** welcoming new people, organizing events, outreach, integration.
 - **Responsibilities:** name tags, Stagecoach Days, welcome protocol, cards, and new member process.
 - **Note:** After hearing responses from congregational members, one high-top table will be returned to the Narthex until further design decisions are made.
 - **Leaders:** Christina Fashner & Arlie Post
- **Congregational Care Team**
 - **Focus:** support through visits, cards, meals, prayer, especially for aging/homebound.
 - **Includes:** prayer shawl ministry, card ministry, spiritual direction, Yogadevotion.
 - **Leaders:** Deb Cowing & Carole England

Ongoing Business

- **“From Mortgage to Mission” Appeal Update:** As of June 12, we have received/committed \$75,089 toward our \$100,000 goal.
 - **Remaining:** \$24,911
 - **Participation:** 44 of 83 households
 - **June 5:** Email to non-participating households and social media outreach.
 - More responses expected; regular updates will continue.

Ministry Team Reports (*Not Reviewed in Meeting*) Council is encouraged to read reports and contact team liaisons as needed:

- Creation Care Team (Pr. Carrie / Chris J.)
- Worship & Music (Pr. Dale / Pr. Carrie)
- Building & Grounds (Steve G.)
- Senior Group “West of 55” (Carole E.) – on summer break
- Humble Bees (Karen R.)
- Children, Youth & Family (Pr. Carrie / Christina F. / Thomas S.) – VBS
- Altar Guild (Kimberly B.) – seeking new members

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, July 15, 2025
- (August Meeting: August 12)
- Devotions: Pastor Dale

Adjournment

- Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by: Carole England