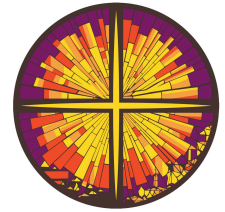


St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m.



Gathering: The council gathered at **5:30 p.m.** for social time.

Devotions: Steve Greseth led the devotion, reading from *Proverbs 3:5–6*:

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”*

Steve reflected on the theme of *our will versus God’s will*, encouraging the Council to place their trust fully in God. He reminded the group not to lean on their own understanding but to have confidence that God will remove obstacles and guide our path forward.

Call to Order: Council President Christina Fashner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Consent Agenda: A motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Christina Fashner and seconded by Kimberly Bahls. Motion carried unanimously.

Affirmations: The Council expressed appreciation for the many ways members support and serve St. Paul Lutheran. **Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie Stiles** were recognized for their dedicated ministry and leadership. **Andrew Fashner** was thanked for taking on responsibilities in the AV role, while **Chris Timmons** was acknowledged for donating a laptop to replace Pastor Carrie’s outdated desktop. **Christina Fashner** received thanks for providing keyboards and mice for church computers. Gratitude was also extended to **all who assisted with Lucas Carlson’s Ordination service**, to **Linda Welch** and **Emily Stegmer** for removing the stain from the narthex rug, and to **everyone who helped with the Fall Festival**, and **all generally members who notice a need and step in to address it**.

Treasurer’s Report

Financial Update Through 9/30/2025	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$155,114
Total Revenue* (<i>*Total Revenue includes Mortgage Pay-off revenue</i>)	\$270,530
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$204,794
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$252,746
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$17,793
Mortgage Balance	\$41,507
Edward Jones Balance	\$54,761

Pastor Dale's Monthly Report

Pastor Dale highlighted several recent events and activities. September and October were full of activity, including the resumption of Discovery Center Chapel and *The Table* midweek faith formation, the West of 55 Train Ride coordinated by Carole, a new member reception welcoming Kim Morsching, and several special events such as funerals, baptism orientation, and the Men's Group kick-off. The Fall Festival partnership with the Discovery Center and Lucas Carlson's ordination were also noted, along with the mailing of the Fall Stewardship Appeal and participation in the Bishop's Fall Theological Conference.

Looking ahead, Pastor Dale noted upcoming events including the Reformation celebration and Bible Milestone kick-off on October 26, All Saints Sunday on November 2, ENGAGE: Lutherans! sessions on November 9, and the Fall Stewardship Commitment Sunday on November 16. Three upcoming baptisms were also scheduled in late November and December.

Ongoing ministry efforts continue with fall program planning (*The Table*, ENGAGE, Stewards for All Seasons, Advent), the mortgage payoff appeal through various communication channels, and regular weekly and monthly groups such as H.E.A.L. Grief Group. Pastor Dale also continues to oversee church maintenance, LADC Chapel coordination, social media updates, worship planning, sermon preparation, pastoral care, and participation in Redevelopment Pastors gatherings.

Pastor Carrie's Monthly Report

Pastor Carrie highlighted several recent activities, including the West of 55 Train Ride, leading the St. Paul Synod WELCA Bible overview, the Fall Festival in partnership with LADC, and *Engage, Wild Faith, and Wild Explorers* on October 12. She also participated in the Bishop's Theological Convention and attended Lucas Carlson's ordination.

Ongoing ministries include preaching and pastoral care, leading Spiritual Direction group meetings, involvement with the Synod Prayer Team, organizing cleaning efforts, preparing for *The Table* and Confirmation on Wednesdays, leading *Wild Faith and Wild Explorers* on Sunday mornings, supporting the MomCo group, participating in DEM meetings with other development and redevelopment congregations, and supporting ARK (Acts of Random Kindness).

Upcoming plans include continued participation in *Stewardship for All Seasons* with Katie Edwards, Carole England, Christina Fashner, and Arlie Post; the Story and 3rd Grade Bibles event on October 26; preparations for Angel Tree and Advent theme and worship; and serving as a workshop leader at the Synod Prayer Ministry Session on November 15 from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

New Business

- **Church Council Positions and Synod Assembly Delegate Nominations:** The Council discussed upcoming leadership terms and nominations. Carole England agreed to serve another term, but as Vice President, Chris Timmons agreed to serve another term, but as Secretary, Andy Buccanero agreed to serve another term as Treasurer, and Kimberly Bahls agreed to serve another term as Member-at-Large. **This leaves two Member-at-Large positions open.** Outgoing Council members will be Karen Rozeske and Chris Jenelle. Additionally, **three delegate nominations are needed to represent St. Paul Lutheran at**

the 2026 Annual Synod Assembly, which will include the election of a new Synod Bishop. As in previous years, notice of all these open positions (Council and Synod Assembly Delegates) will be included in all church publications beginning **Sunday, November 2**, and will continue until all nominations have been secured for our Annual Meeting in January. Anyone interested in serving in any of these positions are encouraged to contact a pastor or Council member.

- **2026 Budget Planning and Preparation:** The Council discussed the timeline, process, and priorities for developing the 2026 church budget. Key considerations this year will include the Mortgage Payoff Appeal, the Stewardship for All Seasons “On a Roll: Building Faith, Sharing Hope” appeal and pledge results, and any anticipated use of the line of credit. It was decided that, as was done last year, the Executive Committee will meet prior to the November Council meeting to develop a recommended 2026 budget draft for Council review and final approval. Pastor Dale will schedule the Executive Committee meeting.

Action Items (Based on 2025 Ministry and Mission Goals): The Council reviewed the progress of current action items.

- **Creation of Hospitality Team:** Led by Christina Fashner and Arlie Post, the initial meeting was held on October 5. This team serves as an umbrella over existing groups. **Action item completed.**
- **Creation of Congregational Care Team:** Led by Carole England and Kimberly Bahls, the initial meeting was held on October 19 with strong attendance. This team also functions as an umbrella over existing groups. **Action item completed.**
- **Creation of Men’s Group:** Led by Pastor Dale, Myron Carpenter, and Steve Greseth, the initial meeting was held on September 27. Attendees reviewed a long list of building and grounds maintenance needs, assigned tasks, and completed many jobs. The group chose the name *The Grounds & Grace Group (3G)* and will meet monthly. All men are invited to participate. **Action item completed.**

New action items aligned with the 2025 strategic ministry and mission goals will be selected with incoming Council members at the February 2026 meeting.

Ongoing Business

Church Property Vision Team – Update: The Council discussed the status of the Church Property Vision Team. Following a letter sent in August to a potential partner regarding the traditional sale of a five-to-seven-acre portion of unused land at an adjusted market-value price, the team received a response on September 25 from the partner’s Business Development Manager. The partner’s CEO has announced her retirement effective early 2026, and as a result, they will table any major development decisions until new leadership is in place. They expressed interest in reconnecting next spring. Accordingly, the Vision Team will pause its work until that time. There is no immediate need to consider alternative uses for the land, and the potential partnership remains an open possibility. The team remains grateful for the congregation’s prayers and patience as they continue to seek God’s guidance for faithful stewardship of the property. This item will be revisited in Spring 2026.

Line of Credit Update: The Council was informed that no draws have yet been made from the approved line of credit. Following congregational approval on August 10, the Council has the authority to utilize up to \$50,000

for routine monthly expenses as needed. Treasurer Andy Buccanero and Chris Timmons will continue to provide monthly updates on activity, balances, and interest to ensure transparency and accountability. Monitoring of the line of credit will continue, and it will be accessed only if necessary. Chris and Andy will provide further updates at future meetings.

Stewardship for All Seasons – Annual Stewardship Appeal Update: Pastor Carrie, along with Carole England and Christina Fashner, provided an update on the ongoing work of the Stewardship for All Seasons Team. The team most recently met on Sunday, October 19, and continues to plan goals and publications for the upcoming annual stewardship appeal. The appeal is scheduled to begin Sunday, October 26, and conclude on Sunday, November 16 with Commitment Sunday. The Council will continue to receive updates on progress and next steps as the team moves forward in developing the appeal.

“From Mortgage to Mission” Special Mortgage Payoff Appeal – Update: The Council received an update on the progress of the 2025 Special Mortgage Payoff Appeal. As of October 19, a total of \$81,605.88 has been received toward the \$100,000 goal, with an additional \$4,250 committed by year-end. Combined, the total received and committed is \$85,855.88, approximately 86% of the goal, leaving \$14,144.12 still needed. The Council expressed gratitude for the strong response so far and continues to encourage congregation participation to reach the goal by year-end.

The Council also discussed the potential use of the Mission Endowment Fund to assist with the mortgage payoff. Current fund balance is \$54,761. According to the church constitution (C.13.16.12), income from the fund may be expended once the fund has accumulated at least \$30,000 over two years, with up to one-fourth of the income allowed for capital improvements, debt reduction, or building programs. Utilizing available income from the fund to support the mortgage payoff would be consistent with this provision.

Pastor Dale will convene the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, consisting of Tyler Kroschel, Neil Gatzow, Katie Edwards, and Deb Cowing, to begin considerations and provide recommendations to the Council. The Council noted that up to \$10,000 could be requested from the fund if needed and will review any recommendation regarding the amount and timing of a potential disbursement to assist with the final push toward mortgage payoff.

Church Safety Response Team – Update: The Council received an update on the formation of the Church Safety Response Team. Several members have agreed to serve on the team, including Matt Rauner, Bruce Spangler, Steve England, Frank Edwards, Dan Juelich, Joanna Kroschel, and Jenna and Grant Olson. This team will be responsible for researching, discussing, and drafting potential safety protocols and emergency response procedures for the church, with the goal of presenting recommendations to the Council for review and implementation. No meeting date has been set yet, but Pastor Dale plans to convene the group at least once this fall or early winter.

Ministry Team Reports (Updates as Needed):

- **Creation Care Team** – Pastor Carrie and Chris Jenelle - no report
- **Worship & Music** – Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie - no report

- **Building & Grounds** – Steve Greseth reported that many projects are currently underway around the church. Appreciation was expressed to the Men’s Group for their ongoing support and work.
- **Senior Group (West of 55)** – Carole England shared that the recent Train Ride and pizza buffet was very successful, with strong attendance.
- **Humble Bees** – Karen reported progress on quilts for the upcoming raffle.
- **Children, Youth, and Family** – Pastor Carrie, Christina Fashner, and Thomas Stoyke continue to oversee programs and activities.
- **Altar Guild** – Kimberly Bahls continues to manage altar preparations and care.

Next Meeting

- **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**
- **Devotions:** Thomas Stoyke

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kimberly Bahls and seconded by Karen Rozeske. The motion carried.

The meeting concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by Church Council Secretary, Carole England