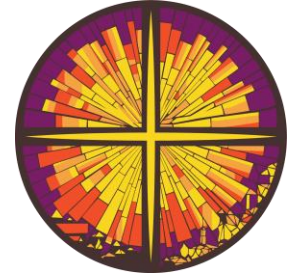


St. Paul Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6:00 p.m.



Social Time - 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Devotions - *Bruce S.*

Call to Order & Roll Call – *all in attendance*

Consent Agenda - *Approved*

Affirmations – *Myron C. is sanding and refinishing windows. Carole E. for planning mini golf outing for West of 55. A.R.K. group and Deb C. for bringing meals to those in need. Chris Timmons for his work as Treasurer and Melissa N. for stepping up and taking on the bookkeeping duties. Brandy T. for updating church bulletin boards.*

Treasurer's Report

Through 9/30/2026	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$174,521
Total Revenue	\$221,861
Total Expenses	\$216,208
Net Revenue	\$5,654

Pastor's Reports

Pastor Dale's Report – Monthly Highlights, September/October 2026

Recent Highlights:

- **The Table RESET begins** - September 16
- **Stagecoach Days Booth** - September 19
- **ENGAGE: Symbols of Faith (Luther's Rose)** - September 20
- **Steven Greseth baptism** - September 20
- **Time & Talent Fest** - September 20
- **Nora Jo Stiles baptism** - September 27
- **ENGAGE: Symbols of Faith (Ichthus)** - October 11
- **Sam Cole preached** - October 18
- **Preliminary 2027 Budget Draft meeting** - October 18

Looking Ahead

- **2026 Fall Stewardship Campaign** - October 25 - November 22
- **Fall Fest & Chili Cook-Off** - October 28
- **All Saints Sunday** - November 1
- **Kai Allan Walcher baptism** - November 1
- **Fall Stewardship Commitment Sunday** - November 15
- **Thanksgiving Eve Worship** - November 25
- **Advent Begins** - November 29

Ongoing Ministry:

- **Weekly & Monthly Groups/Teams:**
 - *Monthly H.E.A.L. (Hope and Encouragement After Loss) Grief Group - on hold*
 - *Vocal Choir*
 - *Grounds & Grace Men's Group*
 - *Church Safety Response Team (Bruce S. has taken the lead on this group)*
- **Church Maintenance** – Coordinating needed repairs and facility upkeep, especially related to LADC
- **LADC Chapel**
- **Social Media** - Regular updates and announcements
- **Worship Leadership** - Weekly worship planning and music coordination
- **Sermon Preparation** - weekly (when preaching) consideration of preaching texts, commentaries, and current events.
- **Pastoral Care** - Home, hospital, and crisis visits; counseling and support

Pastor Carrie's Monthly Report - October 20, 2026

Appreciation-

- Carole England planning for West of 55
- Deb Cowing and ARK planning-the meals have been so helpful to bring to people.

Highlights

- Synod Fall Theological Retreat Planning
- Synod Woman's Bible Study Overview
- Baptisms
- West of 55 outing to Taylors Falls Drive and mini-golf

Ongoing/Upcoming

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- Spiritual Direction group meetings
- The Synod Prayer Team
- Stewardship Team
- The Table, Confirmation, Joyful Noise, Wild Faith, Wild Explorers, Splash
- Cleaning organization
- ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) on Saturday, October 24
- Bible Sunday for Preschool and 3rd Graders on October 25
- Fall Fest and Chili Feed on Wednesday, October 28
- All Saints Sunday on November 1
- Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13
- Advent Planning

New Business

- *No New Business this month.*

Ongoing Business

- **2027 Annual Operating Budget.** Chris Timmons reported on the congregational preliminary 2027 budget draft meeting which was held following worship last Sunday, October 18. The council reviewed the feedback. **Question for Council Reflection:** *How does our proposed budget reflect our mission to*

Share Christ's Love With Joy, and how can we ensure our financial priorities support the ministries most important to our congregation and community?

- a. *No refusal during preliminary church budget meeting regarding proposed 2027 expenses*
- b. *Some members were surprised by current financial situation based on reporting in weekly worship bulletin. Starting this coming Sunday, layout of financial update in bulletin will change to **monthly** total income and revenue/expense in attempt to provide more clarity. In addition, detailed monthly financial documents will be available for review in the church council minute binder in the library.*
- c. *Final council vote on budget will be in December when we have better projected end of the year numbers to consider.*

Action Items - Review the following three action items from our renewed Strategic Ministry and Mission Goals:

1. **Expanding Fellowship and Congregational Life:** Christina F. has continued to publicize the opportunity for occasional hobby and skill-sharing workshops designed to strengthen relationships and encourage members to share their gifts and interests with one another. Christina and the team will begin scheduling these sessions and continue encouraging additional participants and workshop leaders.
 - a. *Delayed slightly. Anticipate November will be first class. Christina will ask Tom Miller to present class on Endowment giving. **Question for Council Reflection:** How can we create opportunities for members to build meaningful relationships and share their God-given gifts with one another? Answer: It aligns with Church Strategy of pass the torch strategy.*
2. **Hospitality and Congregational Care:** At September's Council meeting, Christina presented a proposal on behalf of the Hospitality Team for establishing a formal Welcome Center in the church narthex. The proposal is before the council for consideration as the team continues its work of strengthening hospitality and helping members and visitors feel welcome and connected.
 - a. *Christina is sorting through several ideas. Christina and Jamie will work through ideas and update next council meeting. Creating a mobile welcome center was a top idea. **Question for Council Reflection:** How can a formal Welcome Center help us better communicate that everyone is welcome and help newcomers feel connected to our congregation? Answer: Greet them on way in and out of church*

Ministry Team Reports - The following individual reports will not be reviewed. Council members are encouraged to review the Pastor's reports and/or reach out to the respective liaisons for any questions or additional information regarding what's happening within them.

- **Creation Care Team** (Pr. Carrie)
- **Worship & Music** (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie)
- **Building & Grounds/Grounds & Grace** (Steve/Jamie) – *straightened pews and started planning for next summer pollinator garden.*
- **West of 55 Senior Group** (Carole E.)
- **Safety Response Team** (Pr. Dale/Bruce)
- **Humble Bees** (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie)
- **Children, Youth, and Family** (Pr. Carrie/Christina F./Thomas S.)
- **Altar Guild** (Chris T.)

- **Congregational Care** (Kimberly)
- **Hospitality** (Christina)
- **Stewardship** (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie)

Next Meeting

- **Tuesday, November 17**
- Devotions: *Chris T.*

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer