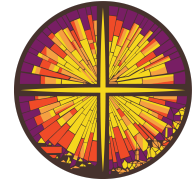


St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2026



Gathered at 5:30 p.m. for social time

Devotions: Jamie Hyrkas led devotions, reflecting on the importance of using our spiritual gifts to serve the church, based on **Romans 12:3–8**. He also referenced *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, reminding council members that serving can be humble and simple without overthinking it. Jamie emphasized that we are called to use our gifts faithfully and cheerfully in service to Christ and the church.

Call to Order and Roll Call: Council Vice President Carole England called the meeting to order at **6:04 p.m.**
Present: Pastor Dale, Pastor Carrie, Carole England, Kimberly Bahls, Steve Greseth, Thomas Stoyke, Bruce Spangler, and Jamie Hyrkas. **Absent:** Andy Buccannero, Chris Timmons, and Christina Fashner

Consent Agenda: No new business items were added. Jamie Hyrkas made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Kimberly Bahls seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Affirmations: Council offered thanks and recognition for:

- **Tyler Kroschel** for taking down the sanctuary Easter window decorations
- **Brandy Timmons** for updating and decorating the church bulletin boards, including the new Creation Care Team display for upcoming Pollinator Sunday on June 14
- **Confirmation students Regan and Piper** for their leadership and faith-sharing during their Affirmation of Baptism service on May 10
- **All who sign up to provide treats** and coffee following Sunday worship
- **Additional affirmations** included those listed in the pastors' reports

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's written report was reviewed. Highlights included:

- **April net revenue:** \$11,239
- Through **May 17**, General Fund giving totaled **\$106,089**, representing **120% of expected giving through the 21st week of 2026**
- This amount is **\$14,208 ahead of General Fund giving** for the same period in 2025
- Year-over-year total revenue is down **\$44,335.07**, due to additional mortgage payoff campaign contributions received in 2025
- As a result of paying off the mortgage in 2025, 2026 expenses are also down **\$62,043**

Financial Update Through 4/30/2026	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$95,410
Total Revenue	\$112,541

Total Expenses	\$101,302
Net Revenue	\$11,239
Edward Jones Balance	\$61,563

Pastor's Reports (Received as submitted. See attached)

New Business: (There was **no new business.**)

Action Items: Action items remain **on hold until after the Spring Planning Retreat.**

Ongoing Business:

- **Line of Credit Update:** Council discussed the current status of the line of credit. Because updates are typically received once per month just before payment is due, the most recent information shows that just under **\$300 has been paid toward principal**. Following next week's payment, principal reduction is expected to total approximately **\$2,800**, including the recent **\$2,500 gift from the Hallberg Family Foundation**.
- **Annual Church Council Planning Retreat** - The annual retreat will be held: **Sunday, May 31, 1:00–4:00 p.m.** Hosted by **Jamie Hyrkas**. Council expressed appreciation to Jamie for hosting. Pastors Dale and Carrie, along with Christina Fashner, will meet beforehand to prepare the retreat agenda. The retreat's goal will be to establish new strategic ministry and mission goals for the congregation. Food assignments: Jamie: grilled hamburgers and chicken breasts. Thomas: lemonade and Coke. Other council members: chips, salads, desserts, buns, and beverages. An email will be sent requesting members indicate what they will bring.
- **Church Property Vision Team Update:** Pastor Dale shared that he recently reconnected with the congregation's potential development partner regarding the previously discussed development proposal. The partner reported that their new CEO, who officially began March 23, is currently being brought up to speed on business development conversations, including St. Paul Lutheran's proposal. They indicated they hope to reconnect soon. The team remains in a waiting period as leadership discerns potential next steps. Council continues to hold this opportunity in prayer.

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Creation Care Team** - Pastor Carrie reported that planning continues for **Pollinator Sunday on June 14**. The team will meet after worship on **May 31** to evaluate whether the overgrown roadside garden could be transformed into a pollinator garden.
- **Worship & Music** - Pastor Dale expressed gratitude for all who faithfully lead worship and music ministry. April and May have included many meaningful and festive worship services.
- **Building & Grounds / Grounds & Grace** - Pastor Dale thanked all who participated in the annual spring cleanup, including members of Grounds & Grace and the Boy Scouts. He also reported that a recent blood drive was canceled after a Red Cross volunteer detected a gas odor in the kitchen and contacted emergency responders. Local fire and Xcel Energy personnel identified a small gas leak at the regulator

behind the convection oven. The oven was temporarily red-tagged until repairs were completed the following day. The leak has been repaired and all equipment is functioning normally.

- **West of 55 Senior Group** - Carole shared that members packed and delivered May Day baskets to residents at The Meadows, where they were warmly received. The group is also sponsoring a **St. Croix River boat cruise on June 7**, open to all church members. Registration deadline is **May 31**.
- **Safety Response Team** - Pastor Dale reported that the team has not met during April or May. A meeting will be scheduled for June.
- **Humble Bees** - Kimberly reported that quilt raffles are being planned for **September** and **November**.
- **Children, Youth & Family** - See Pastor Carrie's report.
- **Altar Guild** - Pastor Dale reported that Karen and Ron Rozeske purchased fabric and made new red sanctuary streamers for Confirmation and Pentecost. The Kroschel family assisted with hanging them. The streamers will remain in place through Pentecost Sunday.
- **Congregational Care** - Kimberly reported that four people attended the joint Congregational Care/Hospitality Team meeting on May 17. A June meeting will be scheduled to organize visits to homebound members. Pastors Dale and Carrie will provide Kimberly with names of members who may appreciate visits.
- **Hospitality** - Christina submitted written updates from the Hospitality Team: Registration for **Night to Unite** has closed; interest remains for 2027, including possible waitlist placement. Applications for **Stagecoach Days** booths and floats are closed; the team plans to pursue participation in 2027. Potential outreach activities include temporary tattoos, coloring/craft stations, prize wheel, giant Connect Four, and giant Jenga. Zella may have Lions Club connections for games. Possible partnership opportunities with LADC are being explored. The team also proposed: A **community movie night** (date TBD), featuring an outdoor inflatable screen, concessions, and possible projector/screen support through the Rauner family. Continuing the annual **5K event**. Reviving the **October Chili Cook-Off/Chili Feed**, potentially opening it to the community with prizes.

Next Meeting:

- **Tuesday, June 16, 2026**
- **Devotions:** Thomas Stoyke

Adjournment: Kimberly Bahls moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Greseth seconded. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at **7:11 p.m.**

Council concluded by praying the **Lord's Prayer** together.

Submitted by Pastor Dale (in the absence of Secretary, Chris Timmons)

See Pastor's Reports on next pages.

Pastor Dale's Report – Monthly Highlights, April/May 2026

Affirmations:

- **All who helped with spring clean up around the church and most recently at the cemetery**, including members of the Grounds & Grace Group and the Boy Scouts and their leaders.
- **Myron Carpenter, Dave Haselbauer, and others** for their work clearing the low spot next to the amphitheater and hauling dirt and black dirt in for planting of additional flowers and perennials.
- **All who helped with Jubilee Sunday** to make it such a great day!
- For **Carole E., Karen C., and Kimberly B.** for serving as Synod Assembly Delegates this year.

Recent Highlights:

- **Tanzania Celebration Sunday: 25 Year Anniversary!** - April 19
- **Jubilee 2026** - April 26 (Mortgage payoff/Bldg. Remodel/End of Redevelopment)
- **Carrie and Dale gone (Tobie's college graduation)** - May 3
- **Annual Mother's Day Spring Festival and Plant Sale** - May 9
- **Confirmation Sunday** - May 10
- **Spring Blood Drive** - May 14
- **Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly** - May 15-16
- **Carrie and Dale gone (niece's confirmation)** - May 17

Looking Ahead

- **Graduate Recognition Sunday (Nova K., Tucker P., Connor F.)** - May 31
- **Baptism (Loretta Jean Hollihan)** - May 31
- **Annual Spring Quilt Raffle Drawing** - May 31
- **Annual Church Council Planning Retreat** - May 31
- **First Outdoor Worship** - June 7
- **Baptism (Madeline Sjoblom)** - June 7

Ongoing Ministry:

- **Weekly & Monthly Groups/Teams:**
 - *H.E.A.L. Grief Group*
 - *Vocal Choir*
 - *Grounds & Grace Men's Group*
 - *Church Safety Response Team*
- **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 - May 19, 2026

Appreciation-

- Cleaners for the last three months- Connie Bahnemann and Tony, Dan Juelich, Bruce and Nancy Spangler, Emily Stegner, Linda Welch, Fritz Wheatley
- Brandy Timmons for her work with the 9th graders on their stoles and getting everything ready for confirmation.
- Karen Rozeske for the beautiful new red streamers in the sanctuary. They are a beautiful addition to our confirmation and Pentecost services. Also, to the Kroschels for hanging them up.

Highlights

- Jubilee Sunday-it was a wonderful celebration of life in our community
- Maying May Baskets for The Meadows
- Spring Plant Sale- \$2340 was fundraised
- Confirmation Sunday- and celebrating Regan Fraley and Piper Pederson
- Synod Assembly May 15-16 and the election of Bishop Elect Justin Grimm as our new Bishop.
- Melissa and I visited an event that our STEP cleaners sponsored

Ongoing/Upcoming

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- Spiritual Direction group meetings
- The Synod Prayer Team
- Cleaning organization
- Chapel with the preschool
- Vacation Bible School-June 29-July 2
- Summer Stretch in July with youth
- Creation Care Team brainstorming meeting on Sunday, May 31
- Pollinator Sunday on June 14
- Preaching Retreat June 8-11