

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Voter's Meeting

Saturday, June 13, 2026 – Church Sanctuary

Preliminary Meeting Minutes

(Minutes are approved at the Annual Voter's Meeting.)

Call to Order

- David Talmage, President called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- Pastor Stoterau opened in prayer.

Approval of Minutes – Gail Kanneg, Secretary

- Voter's Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2025, were distributed prior to the meeting.
- **MOTION:** To approve June 21, 2025, Voter's Meeting minutes as presented.
- ***A motion was made and seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.***

Election of Board of Directors

- Ballot & Nominee Information was distributed prior to the meeting. 103 voice votes were counted.
- Officers Elected
 - Paul Lavigne – Vice President
 - Treasurer – Eric Hallett
- Members-at-Large Elected
 - Paul Cramer
 - Sue Guebert
 - Drew Hantula
- The Board of Directors for 2026-2027
 - President and Chairman – David Talmage
 - Vice President – Paul Lavigne
 - Secretary – Gail Kanneg
 - Treasurer – Eric Hallett
 - Members-at-Large
 - Paul Cramer
 - Beth Fitzgerald
 - Sue Guebert
 - Drew Hantula
 - Robyn Strohschein
 - Matt Wingert
 - Non-elected Director
 - Pastor Larry Stoterau

Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2026– Pike Lambeth, Treasurer

- General tithes and offerings are about 64K above budget, and \$112K above last year.
- Our net income is \$327K, which is above our budget by about \$215K and \$130K above last year. The variances are mostly from timing. Our budgeted net income is used to support our loan principal payments.
- Our 2025-2026 budget included a deficit of \$310K, including \$172K of our loan principal payment. We are projecting that we will have reduced our deficit by about \$100K by the end of the fiscal year.
- About \$40K of our additional other income was from leasing our church parking lot to Orange Lutheran.
- Our cash reserve is about \$1.2 million, which is earning about \$3.4% in a US Treasury Fund at Allspring.
- Funds at Allspring are earning about 3.39% (7-day effective yield Administrator class 100% treasury fund).
- Our total financed debt is about \$3.99 million at an average interest rate of \$3.75%.

Budget Presentation & Vote – Pike Lambeth, Treasurer

- The 2026-2027 budget was distributed prior to the meeting.
- We are in a much better financial situation for next year's budget.
- We are presenting a balanced budget for 2026-2027.
- Total budgeted income is increasing by \$366K.
- Total budgeted expenses are increasing by \$124K.
- This will leave us with \$147K in net income to cover our loan principal payments.
- Thing of Note:
 - Elimination of the Hispanic Ministry.
 - Pastor Stoterau expressed that we are concerned for Pastor Carlos and his family's well-being. He is being given financial support. We are working with the PSD to find him another call.
 - Elimination of the Marketing Director position.
 - Current staff will absorb the marketing responsibilities.
 - Targeting 360 students for enrollment. Ended year at 355 students.
 - Inclusion of the Outdoor Easter service.
- **MOTION:** To approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented.
- **A motion was made and seconded. Discussion.**
 - Q – Does the new budget include an Assistant Pastor or another Youth Worker?
 - A – No, not at this time.
 - Q – Have we considered selling our excess property to bring down our debt?
 - A – No. We are servicing the debt just fine. The property is more valuable to keep than to sell.
 - Q – Where does the debt come from?
 - A – The majority of the debt is from the Event Center construction and the Sanctuary Renovation.
- **There being no further discussion, the vote was called. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Endowment Fund Report & Expenditure Recommendation – Beth Fitzgerald

- The purpose of endowment funds is to create long-term financial support for the ministry.
- Vic Heim Scholarship Fund – provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a SPLS graduate who will be attending Orange Lutheran High School. Balance as of 4/30/26 = \$54,063
- Tuition Assistance Fund – provides grants to SPLS families to assist with school tuition. Grant guidelines are to not exceed 5% of the total balance of the fund. Recommended disbursement = \$46,549
- Past Endowment Fund Expenditures
 - 2025 - \$9,800 – Livestream Equipment and Freezer Seed Money
 - 2024 - \$6,000 – Missional Marketing
 - 2023 - \$4,000 – Church Gym Tech Upgrades
 - 2022 - \$6,000 – Live Scan Equipment (not completed)
 - 2021 - \$10,000 – Church Tech Upgrades
- Bylaw 10.2.C states that the Board shall make at least one expenditure recommendation to the Voters.
- \$11,000 of the undesignated funds has been recommended by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- The recommendation is to split the funds between the Panther Praise Band equipment (\$8,000) and technology upgrades for worship (\$3,000).
- **MOTION:** To authorize the expenditure of \$11,000 of undesignated endowment funds, with \$8,000 allocated for Panther Praise Band equipment and \$3,000 allocated for technology upgrades for worship.
- **A motion was made and seconded. Discussion. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.**

School Ministry Update – Deryl Maxwell

- Goal is that St. Paul's will be recognized as the premier model of innovation and excellence in Lutheran education across the Pacific Southwest District.
 - To this end, the Principal's Table was created as a place for parents/stakeholders and administration to share their hopes and ideas with an emphasis on respectful, solution-oriented conversations.
- The Baptism Project was a huge success. Since February 23, 2026, we have celebrated 25 baptisms, including 3 adults and 22 children. This Christ-centered initiative has united our church and school around God's promise through baptism.
- New Staff for 2026-2027:
 - Tim McCann – 4th Grade
 - Amanda Steinke – 3rd Grade
 - Gunner Ashmon – Middle School
 - Anthony Olague – Instrumental Music
 - Katherine Palaeorego – 1st Grade
 - Steven Weisman – Middle School
- Panther Safety Squad is a group of individuals who have a passion for keeping our kids safe. They help support campus safety, emergency preparedness, school events, and safety training. We are always looking for individuals with backgrounds in law enforcement, fire services, EMS, military, or related safety fields.
- Watch for information on our all-campus workday coming August 15.

Call Committee Report & Recommendation – Paul Lavigne

- The BOD formed the Call Committee in November 2025.
- Surveys of the staff and congregation were conducted.
- A pastor profile was created.
- Nominations were received from the congregation. The Pacific Southwest District vetted these nominations and added names of pastors who might be a good fit for St. Paul's.
- These pastoral candidates were reviewed. Some candidates were selected for interviews.
- From the beginning of the process, Pastor Caleb Cox was identified as a prime candidate.
- Pastor Caleb, his wife Kristin and their two sons came to visit St. Paul's. Over a long weekend, they worshipped at all services; met with the Call Committee, staff, members, and the BOD; and toured our campuses.
- Pastor Caleb was found to be engaging and insightful.
- It is the recommendation of the Call Committee and the Board of Directors that St. Paul's issues a call to Rev. Dr. Caleb Cox to be our next Senior Pastor.
- **MOTION:** That St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Olive, California extend a Divine Call to Pastor Caleb Cox to serve as Senior Pastor of this congregation, entrusting him with the faithful preaching of the Word, administration of the Sacraments, and spiritual leadership in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.
- ***A motion was made, seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.***

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer – David Talmage

There being no further business to come before the assembly, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Kanneg