

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
August 31, 2026

Attendees: Cassy Veldhorst, Tom Splittgerber, Pr Kyle Backhaus, Sara Chapman, Stefanie Trakel, Jeff Berg, Mark Buffington, John Rische, Donna Felch, Michelle Zuengler, & Chad Berke

Excused:

Guests:

| Topic                             | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Responsible Party |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Call to Order                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Vice President Jeff Berg called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                   |
| Children & Family Ministry Update | Savannah reviewed AWANA and Sunday School kickoff. She is again planning a Birthday Party for Jesus. VBS was a huge success with 99 kids. Family Events for the upcoming year are planned, along with a Family Mission Trip to Camp Luther in October. The Nursery is having some staff changes as a couple are now in college. | Savannah asked that Council Members help promote the Camp Luther Mission trip in October.                                                                                                                                                                                   |                   |
| Associate Pastor Ministry Update  | Pr Adam shared many of the things he's been working on over the past several months. His current focus is on Rooted and working with Small Groups. He also spends time in the ECC and TGP regularly, along with leading Chapel at various other churches and schools. He is keeping very busy!                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   |
| Fellowship Hall Condenser         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A motion was made by Sara Chapman via email on 8/24/26 to recommend to the Congregation the Fellowship Hall Condenser replacement in the amount of \$60,000 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Tom Splittgerber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |                   |
| Security Camera System            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A motion was made by Sara Chapman via email on 8/27/26 to recommend to the Congregation the Security Camera System replacement in the amount of \$36,000 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Tom Splittgerber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.    |                   |
| Main Entrance Replacement         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | A motion was made by Donna Felch via email on 8/24/26 to recommend to the Congregation the Main Entrance replacement in the amount of \$45,000 to be                                                                                                                        |                   |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Tom Splittgerber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                |
| Senior Pastor Update                | <p>Pr Kyle gave ministry highlights. The TGP Car show was a huge success. He's working on rebranding and relaunching our podcast in January, to include sermons and daily devotions. Fall activities are all kicking off now.</p> <p>Pr Kyle shared a graph of membership over the past 4 years, which has significantly decreased due to the membership clean up project. The graph compared that to worship attendance, which has increased significantly during that time. It seems our members now are more committed to worship. The worship attendance numbers do include non-members.</p> | <p>Volunteer Installation will be September 17-20. All Council Members are asked to attend a service.</p> <p>Stefanie will look into putting together a graph of member specific worship attendance.</p>                                                                        | <p>Council Members</p> <p>Stefanie Trakel</p>  |
| July Secretary Report               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A motion was made by Donna Felch via email on 8/12/26 to approve the July Secretary Report. Sara Chapman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.                                                                                                                       |                                                |
| July Treasurer Report               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A motion was made by Donna Felch via email on 8/19/26 to approve the July Treasurer Report. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.                                                                                                                  |                                                |
| Undesignated Gift Discussion        | Tom Splittgerber suggested the possibility of setting up a subaccount within the Endowment Account, where money could be set aside for the future. This could be used for a parking lot, capital items or even to help with budget shortfalls. Discussion was held.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Tom will send the endowment presentation to Church Council. Council members are asked to consider this option and more discussion will be held in September.</p> <p>A list of possible options for the undesignated gift was requested. Stefanie will put this together.</p> | <p>Tom Splittgerber</p> <p>Stefanie Trakel</p> |
| Council Support                     | Some Council members are interested in being more of an asset and resource for staff. Even to serve as a sounding board, but only if there is a need.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Pr Kyle will do some brainstorming with the Director Team to see if this will be helpful and report back.                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                |
| Elder Team                          | The Elder Team did not meet in August.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                |
| Walk In Item – Parking Lot Striping | The parking lot needs to be restriped.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Stefanie will obtain a quote. John Rische has equipment he is willing to share as well if someone is willing to volunteer, then we'd just need to purchase the paint.                                                                                                           | Stefanie Trakel                                |

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| Adjournment    | The September Council Meeting is Monday, September 28 at 5:30 pm. | A motion was made by Jeff Berg to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Seconded by Michelle Zuengler. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Closing Prayer | Pr Kyle closed in prayer                                          |                                                                                                                              |  |