

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
 July 27, 2026

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

Excused: Tom Splittgerber & Pr Kyle Backhaus

Guests:

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible Party
Call to Order		President Jeff Berg called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.	
Early Childhood Center Update	Christina Zeuner reported that it was a successful school year, with lots of extra fun activities, both in and out of the building. 12 children graduated from 4K in May. Current enrollment for fall is 13-3AM, 4-3PM, 10-4K. We do have another open house in August. We have 25 children in summer childcare. When weather cooperates, the majority of the day is spent outside. We will have 31 in fall with a few spots open.		
Youth & Family Ministry Update	Nicole Dollevoet reported that Confirmation registration begins Aug 1 and she will start home visits for 6th grade families shortly. The mission trip to South Carolina was incredible, with 33 attending. Throughout the summer Family Ministry has several events to pull people together, with a kickball event to end the summer. Event planning for the upcoming year is complete. This past year ECC families were also invited to family events, with a very positive response.		
Camp Luther Trip		A motion was made by Mark Buffington to approve the Children, Youth and Family Mission trip to Camp Luther October 23-25, 2026. Sara Chapman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Youth Mission Trip		A motion was made by Mark Buffington to approve the Youth Mission Trip to Loveland, Colorado June 18-26, 2026. Sara Chapman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Senior Pastor Update	VBS is happening now with 98 kids registered and 65 volunteers. Table of Grace Ministry is in the beginning stages, led by Danette Hoftiezer. We received a		

	\$2,500 microgrant from the district for it. Rooted advertising and book purchases have begun for our Fall Series. We had a couple weddings this summer and many baptisms. Membership has been gone through, removing 90 people due to no attendance in the last 4 years. Letters and phone calls have also been made to those with no attendance in the last 2-3 years. Annual calls have also been made to members over 80 years old. Pr Blas will be our guest preacher Aug 6-9. We will return to 3 services on September 13. We are still looking for an organist/bell choir director/choir accompanist.		
May Secretary Report		A motion was made by Chad Berke to approve the May Secretary Report. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
May Treasurer Report		A motion was made by Mark Buffington via email on 6/11/26 to approve the May Treasurer Report. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
June Fiscal Year End Treasurer Report	St. Paul ended the year with a surplus of \$14,340, without the special gifts. This has been placed into the Ministry Development Dedicated Account. Special gifts in the amount of \$474,109 have been placed temporarily in the Ministry Development account until the Council determines future allocations. The Columbarium is able to pay back \$10,000 of the loan to St. Paul. Fiscal year end comparisons for the past 21 years were shared.	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to approve the June Fiscal Year End Treasurer Report. Sara Chapman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Chad Berke for the columbarium to pay back \$10,000 of the loan to St. Paul. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Year End Surplus Discussion	The Council reviewed the Capital Improvement plan for the next 5 years. This includes roughly a \$300,000 boiler that has exceeded its life. Discussion was held of various options, to potentially include setting money aside for the boiler and a donation to the Endowment Fund.	Discussion was tabled until the August Church Council Meeting.	Church Council

2026-27 Budget		A motion was made by Donna Felch via email on 6/11/26 to approve the 2026-27 Budget as presented. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Ministry Fundraising Match Program	Stefanie shared the 2025-26 Fundraisers that were matched in the amount of \$37,122.59.	The 2026-27 fiscal year will have \$34,764.66 available for matching.	Stefanie Trakel
2026-27 Housing Allowance		A motion was made by Michelle Zuengler to approve the 2026-27 Housing Allowances as presented. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
2026-27 Home Missions	The Pastors, Donna Felch and Stefanie Trakel reviewed home mission requests that were submitted and put together a plan for support for the upcoming year.	A motion was made by Sara Chapman to approve the 2026-27 Home Missions as presented. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
2026-27 Mission Partner Scrip	The Pastors, Donna Felch and Stefanie Trakel reviewed mission partner scrip requests that were submitted and put together a plan for support for the upcoming year.	A motion was made by Chad Berke to approve the 2026-27 Mission Partner Scrip as presented. Mark Buffington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Clevertouch Smart TV	The Smart TV is nine years old and we are beginning to have issues with it. It is used very frequently so that staff have asked to replace it.	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to replace the Smart TV not to exceed \$4,500 from the Capital Improvement Fund. John Rische seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	Stefanie Trakel
Security Camera System	A team consisting of Mark Huehns, Mark Buffington, Chad Berke and Stefanie Trakel has been put together. They will be meeting with 2 vendors in early August. Scope to include: • All main exterior entrances • Parking lots as best we can, mounted to building • 30 day retention • Cloud based • Ability to expand • 3 interior cameras – main entrance, entrance 3/bathrooms, entrance 5/bathrooms • Battery backup Camera Corner was suggested for a 3rd quote.	The Team will share the scope with our vendors and present a final quote to Council at the August meeting. This will then need to be presented at a Fall Congregation Meeting.	Security Camera Team
Main Entrance Replacement	Falls Glass shared a quote a mock up to replace the entire panel of front doors. The doors are old and	The Council has decided to add crosses to each door, which would decrease the amount of glass, making it too small for a person to enter through the glass.	Stefanie Trakel

	need to be replaced, we'd also like to make them more secure with less glass.	Stefanie will send the adjustments to Falls Glass and present a final quote at the August Council Meeting. This will then need to be presented at a Fall Congregation Meeting. John Rische will look into getting a quote from Sheboygan Glass.	
Bollards	Stefanie shared the quote to place 8 bollards at our entrances.	A motion was made by Donna Felch to approve the installation of bollards by Jos Schmitt, not to exceed \$18,000 to come from the Capital Improvement fund. Seconded by Michelle Zuengler. Motion carried unanimously. Council would like this shared at the Fall Congregation Meeting as part of the security package, to include a map of where the bollards will go and potentially a better picture of the bollard.	Stefanie Trakel
Elder Team	The Elder Team did not meet in July. Discussion was held regarding the purpose of the Elder Team, which is to support the Pastors.	Additional Elders may be sought. Stefanie will share the Elder Policy with John for his reference.	John Rische & Pr Kyle
Walk In Items	None		
Adjournment	The August Council Meeting is Monday, August 24 at 6:30 pm. Members are encouraged to come early to enjoy food at the TGP Car Show.	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to adjourn the meeting at 7 pm. Seconded by Sara Chapman. Motion carried unanimously.	
Closing Prayer	Mark Buffington closed in prayer		