

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2026

Attendees: Cassy Veldhorst, Pr Kyle Backhaus, Jeff Berg, Mark Buffington, John Rische, Donna Felch, Michelle Zuengler, & Chad Berke

Excused: Stefanie Trakel

Guests: Thomas Walkenhorst & Rita Ten Pas

Topic	Discussion	Action	Responsible Party
Call to Order		Vice President Jeff Berg called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.	
Worship Ministry Update	Thomas Walkenhorst provided a written update on Worship activities, all of which has resumed for the fall season. MIDI Organ is being utilized while an organist is being sought. Thomas and Chad Berke recently attended a worship team conference which provided some new worship options.	The Council thanks both Thomas and the team for all that they add to our services.	
Endowment Team Update	Rita Ten Pas presented an overview of the endowment funds, its specific categories, latest distribution amounts and June 30 th balances. She presented statistics on the funds' performance since being managed by the Lakeshore Community Foundation.	The Council thanked Rita for the information. The Endowment Team is scheduled to provide its next update to the Council in about six months.	
Senior Pastor Update	Pr. Kyle provided data on overall worship service attendance as well as 11 am service since resumption of the fall schedule. He also gave a recap of various upcoming activities and programs. He also described a few potential future opportunities.		
August Secretary Report		A motion was made by Donna Felch via email on 9/3/26 to approve the August Secretary Report. Cassy Veldhorst seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
August Treasurer Report	August saw average weekly giving drop below the fiscal year 2026 average weekly giving level. If giving does not increase there would be a shortfall of about \$274,000 at year end (assuming expenses are as budgeted). However, summer giving is often below budget as members travel. It is likely that weekly	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to approve the August Treasurer Report. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	

	giving will rises in September as the full schedule of activities resume.		
Parking Lot Striping	John Rische identified necessary equipment available for rent at a reasonable cost. Paint would be sourced from Fasse Paint. Mark Buffington volunteered to head up a team to do the striping this fall.	A motion was made by Chad Berke to approve the parking lot striping project in the amount not to exceed \$1,500 to be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	Mark Buffington
Policy #69 – Security Camera System	The Council reviewed a policy governing the operation of the recently installed cameras.	A motion was made by Michelle Zuengler to approve the policy as written. Mark Buffington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Policy #52 – Sustenance Fund	The fund was established during Covid to provide help to those in need. After Covid, the fund balance was moved to the Social Ministry dedicated account. Since the fund is no longer used, a decision was made to retire it.	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to retire policy #52 – Sustenance Fund. Chad Berke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.	
Year End Surplus Discussion	There are various options as to how these unusual gifts be utilized. More time is needed to further consider the issue.	The topic was tabled.	Church Council
Elder Team	Because of scheduling issues, the team’s meeting has been postponed until 10-6-26.		Elder Team
Walk In Items -	A discussion was held regarding the many conflicts parents face trying to balance their families’ church attendance/activities with conflicting sports schedules.		
Adjournment	The October Council Meeting concluded at 6:55 pm.	A motion was made by Mark Buffington to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Seconded by Michelle Zuengler. Motion carried unanimously.	
Closing Prayer	John Rische closed in prayer		