

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

July 17, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

Members present: Matt McMerty (President), Colleen Peterson, Denise Wetzel, Phil Murdoff, Mitch Becker, Dean Natwick, Lucas Teigen, Barb Pfeifer, Julie Leer, Pastor Martha HarriSon and Pastor Mark Narum.

Members absent: Bob Baumann, Effie Carr

President McMerty called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Devotions were given by Denise Wetzel.

Approval of Agenda: Pastor Mark requested the addition of an agenda item after the Financial Report. It was moved by Denise Wetzel and seconded by Dean Natwick to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda: It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Barb Pfeifer to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Denise Wetzel presented the Financial Report. See Attachment A. It was moved by Phil Murdock and seconded by Mitch Becker to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Recent Events:

Third Street Parking lot tenant:

Pastor Mark reported MDU will no longer be renting the 3rd Street parking lot. Council discussed other potential tenants or uses for that area.

Heating core failure:

Pastor Mark reported that the day before Council met, a heating core failed resulting in minor water damage in the community center and the quilters' room. It appears to have been discovered fairly quickly which mitigated the damage. Council discussed the needed clean-up and repairs.

Dwelling in the World: Council members discussed alternate uses of the building and grounds; e.g., should we encourage community use of our outdoor space where employees of the surrounding businesses could enjoy a break or their lunch during the day. Council was encouraged to consider feasible alternate uses.

Old Business:

Personnel Policy Taskforce:

The policy manual is under continued revision.

Lighting:

The final project from the capital campaign is the lighting. The expected shipping date for the materials and supplies was 7/21/2025. It is anticipated that the remaining funds and outstanding pledges will be adequate to cover the costs.

Sanctuary Railing:

It is anticipated the sanctuary railing will be reinstalled in September.

App update:

Most vendors want customers to use their church management software in conjunction with their apps. We don't want to change our church management software. We are exploring whether the vendor for our church management software is anticipating development of a more robust app that will include a church directory.

New Business:

Trust Grants:

The following trust grant requests were discussed:

Request to install new hardware for the South side exterior doors in the Community Center.

Request to purchase Emergency Lights and Exit signs in the Church School area.

Request to cover block party expenses.

Request to consider a missed scholarship.

It was moved by Denise Wetzel and seconded by Mitch Becker to recommend the grants to Trust. Motion carried.

Celebration of Capital Campaign Completion:

It is worth celebrating that \$1.35M was raised and all improvements were accommodated and paid without Trinity incurring any interest charges!! Council will consider ideas for a celebration.

Celebration of our nation's 250th Birthday next year:

Also worth celebrating! Council will consider ideas for a celebration.

Tech crew:

Discussed how to recruit and encourage involvement in working on a tech crew for Sunday and Wednesday services. Part of this would be providing training and instruction to ensure the current tech crew has back-up for the weeks they are unable to attend services. The brainstorming will continue.

Coverage of Trinity participation in community events:

Discussed input received from a Trinity member expressing disappointment that the coverage (on social media and in the newsletters and bulletins) of Trinity's participation in community events is not equal; some participation gets more coverage than other participation receives.

Corn Feed / Block Party:

August 10th is the day. Committee assignments will be distributed soon.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions next month: Julie Leer

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary