

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

December 18, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

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

Members absent: Bob Baumann, Dean Natwick, and Effie Carr

President McMerty called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

Devotions were given by Pastor Martha.

Thank-you and sympathy cards were identified.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Mitch Becker to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda: It was moved by Denise Wetzel and seconded by Colleen Peterson to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Denise Wetzel presented the Financial Report. See Attachment A. It was moved by Barb Pfeifer and seconded by Julie Leer to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Dwelling in the World: Council members discussed Trinity's budget for the coming year.

Old Business:

Lighting System update:

The lighting project is underway. Anticipating installation to begin shortly after the first of the year.

We are also anticipating a solution for lighting under the balcony. Labor will be intense, but likely will have significant volunteer labor to keep the costs of this project manageable.

(Thank you, VOLUNTEERS!)

Christmas Special Offering:

Youthworks has been identified as the recipient of the Christmas Special Offering; the congregation will be receiving more information on Youthworks during services.

Trust Grant updates:

--Moving forward with the Rejoicing Spirits services, beginning in January 2026. Rejoicing Spirit resources will provide a regular worship service at Trinity where people with special needs (such as developmental disabilities) are invited to worship.

--\$1000 moved from Trust to Good Samaritan Fund which is available to support congregation members during a time of need. This was particularly important during the recent shutdown of the Federal government.

--Faith chests should be delivered shortly after the start of the year.

--Organ repairs have been completed.

Budget:

At the end of November, we are in the black! As of the middle of December, we met our expected offering for 2025. **(Thank you all for your generosity!)**

Council discussed budget items including the status of giving intent cards and status of several accounts discussed at the November meeting. Based on the information received, it was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Denise Wetzel to provide a 4% salary increase in 2026. Motion carried.

New Waste Hauling Contract:

TransTrash is the new vendor with whom we have contracted to serve Trinity. Staff is still wrapping up a few final items with Waste Management.

New Business:

Unexpected Gifts Policy:

Council discussed the need to create a policy that will guide Trinity in handling unexpected large financial gifts Trinity receives. The policy will identify into which funds any undesignated money will go. The discussion continues.

New Carpet:

Council discussed the proposals received to replace the carpet in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Lower Youth Room. The information gathering continues.

IRS Designations:

Council discussed the IRS Designation forms the Pastors submit to inform the IRS their pay includes a housing allowance. It was moved by Colleen Peterson and seconded by Mitch Becker that the forms be approved. Motion carried.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for January: Phil Murdoff.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:57 p.m.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary