

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

July 16, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

Members present: Denise Wetzel (1st Vice President), Mitch Becker, Phil Murdoff, Dean Natwick, Londa Rodahl, Mark Wagner, Barb Pfeifer, Bob Baumann, Lucas Teigen, Julie Leer, and Pastor Mark Narum

Members absent: Colleen Peterson and Pastor Martha HarriSon

Vice-President Wetzel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions were given by Denise Wetzel.

Council participated in the card shower for Pastor Brad and Pastor Tera in appreciation of their work with Bishop Craig in the ELCA Western ND Synod.

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Mark Wagner and seconded by Barb Pfeifer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda:

It was moved by Londa Rodahl and seconded by Bob Baumann to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Londa Rodahl presented the Financial Report. See Attachment A. It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Phil Murdoff to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Dwelling in the World: Council discussed our concerns and hopes for our World, Country, and Communities – both Bismark-Mandan and Trinity.

Old Business:

250th Birthday of the United States celebration

The celebration held on June 28, 2026, was a spectacular success! It is estimated between 250 and 300 people enjoyed the picnic lunch, activities, and music. There was very good attendance at both Sunday services, as well.

Carpeting update:

Carpet installation is complete! A quote has been requested for the replacement of the rugs in the south foyer to a covering that is more permanent. This will freshen up that entryway and will remove a potential trip hazard that existed with the taped down rugs.

Bathroom repairs:

Additional work has been completed in the downstairs bathrooms as well including new toilets and linoleums. A huge thank-you to the members and friends of Trinity who will tackle practically any task or repair. Their skill and efforts are much appreciated! The improvements were completed in time for Trinity to host 2 youth groups this summer.

Communications Audit:

We received a bid from Clearwater Communications for \$5500 to conduct the Communications Audit. Pastor Mark and Erin Becker will work with Clearwater to get things started. It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Lucas Teigen that Trinity proceed with

the Contract with Clearwater Communications to conduct the Communications Audit and to use funds from the FIB Interest Fund to pay for the audit. Motion carried.

Windfall Gift Policy:

Pastor Mark and Julie Leer presented the most recent edits to the Windfall Gift Policy. It was moved by Lucas Teigen and seconded by Mark Wagner to approve the Windfall Gift Policy. Motion carried.

New Business:

Rental Policy:

Trinity's current rental rate for the Community Center for weddings for non-Trinity members is \$1000. Trinity is part of the Downtowners' Association and through that connection learned that \$500 is a more competitive rate. The question was put to Council re: whether it makes sense to reduce our rental rate and potential increase our number of rentals. (There are different rates for other activities.) Other costs of weddings such as door monitors and clean-up costs are costs borne by the renters and are not part of the rental rate. It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Lucas Teigen to reduce our rental rate to \$500 for non-Trinity members for weddings. Motion carried.

Trust Fund Requests:

--Youth and Family Shirts

Request \$800 to purchase matching t-shirts for our Church School, Confirmation, and High School leaders. These shirts will serve to identify leaders on days such as Rally Day, the first sessions of class, and more. This idea came out of the long term planning meeting with the Faith Formation Committee.

--United Way Back Packs

Request \$4000 to sponsor a week of the United Way Backpack Program which provides food for kids in need over the weekend. Bags of food are sent home with the kids on Friday. We as a church will pack up the food into bags, sort them into schools, and deliver totes of bags to the schools on November 11 & 12 with the direction of United Way. The funds are paid to United Way and they purchase the food on our behalf.

--Rally Days 2026

Request \$600 to cover the following for the 2026 Rally Days:

\$250 for congregational art project

\$300 FOMO Ice Cream Trailer for Wednesday

\$150 Decorate your own donut activity Sunday

--Communications Audit

See discussion on the Communications Audit in Old Business.

Request for \$5500 to engage a firm to lead us through an audit of our congregational communications with a goal of enhancing connections with our members. This will happen through "Focus Group" discussions, surveys, and a review of our existing avenues of communication with those who worship with us. It will result in a report which will include observations and recommendations. (The second step will include a Communication Task Force putting together an action plan to engage the results of the report.)

--Baptismal Boxes

Request \$500 to purchase handmade, oak baptismal boxes. To date 20 boxes have been delivered. In the coming weeks 30 more boxes will be delivered. The cost is \$85 per box. This request will provide the balance of the funds needed to pay for the boxes.

It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Barb Pfeifer to recommend the grant requests to Trust. Motion carried.

Sabbatical

Pastor Mark will be on sabbatical from August 3rd through October 13th. Godspeed Pastor Mark!

New Bishop Installation & Bishop Craig's farewell

Pastor Lisa Lewton will be installed as Bishop of the ELCA Western ND Synod on August 29th in Dickinson.

Bishop Craig Schweitzer's farewell celebration will be on July 27th at the Heritage Center from 1-4 p.m.

Dream Center Board Member

The Dream Center is seeking a Trinity member to serve on its board in the wake of Mike Baltzer's passing. The pastors have some names in mind and will keep us updated.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for August: Londa Rodahl

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary

Minutes for July 22, 2026 email vote on Trust Grant Application

An email request was sent to all Trinity Council members asking for recommendation of a Trust grant in the amount of \$1423 to replace the taped down rugs at the south entrance of the church with walk off carpet squares, similar to the walk off at the north entrance. We would use the same vendor who replaced carpet at Trinity earlier this summer.

All council members voted and approved recommending this grant to Trust for consideration.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary