

ST PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
6 PM HELD IN-PERSON

IN ATTENDANCE

DAN STREHLOW, MARIA GATHJE, JOHN NYE, PASTOR GREG GEIER, DOLORES PEMBLE, TRICIA BREMER, SAMMI WARNECKE, JEN KLOS

ABSENT

JUDY HANSEN, NATALIE CARDA

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT DAN STREHLOW – 6:06PM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAMMI WARNECKE

Based on discussion from previous meeting, discussion of asking HR to list the position for Children's Choir Director added to New Business.

No changes noted to March Council Meeting Minutes.

Dolores Pemble made a motion to approve the March minutes.

Jen Klos seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DOLORES PEMBLE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

The Finance Ministry Team met on Monday, April 10 and approved the March Finance Reports. Other business discussed included the 1st quarter Designated Funds report which included the increases in accounts from the interested accrued in 2025. We also discussed memorial donations and how they should be handled. FMT is suggesting that a paragraph be added to the current Funeral handbook suggesting memorials be directed to one of the already established Designated Funds line items. An update regarding this directive will also be published in a future newsletter. Our next meeting is May 11.

No changes noted to March Treasurer's Report.

Jen Klos made a motion to approve the report.

Maria Gathje seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

VP JUDY HANSEN

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Recent activities: cleaning of the narthex and surrounding hall carpets by Heidi Nelson; washing of all windows inside and out by Fine Shine; cleaning the vent / fan on the kitchen range, under the cabinets in the kitchen, and the top of the refrigerator by Bill Pavlish; and cutting back the hydrangeas along the north wall plus the sedum in the rain garden between the 15th Street driveways by Jan & Neil Misagades. Bill Pavlish disposed of the four bags of cuttings.

Glenda has requested bids for parking lot repair from Tundra and Seal King (who reached out to Greg), but so far there has been no response from either vendor. Other upcoming activities: WELCA women will clean the kitchen cabinetry and refrigerator in early May and Grounds Clean UP day is scheduled for May 16, from 9 to 11:30 am. Mulch will be ordered for spreading. Also, Adopt a Spot will be announced in the May newsletter with a sign-up sheet on the kiosk. Ten spots will need one or more families to take care of them through September.

****Council discussion regarding action – Dan will follow up with Glenda regarding council action.***

SERVING MINISTRY REPORT

TRICIA BREMER

FELLOWSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

OLD BUSINESS:

1. FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY MEMBERS: No one had any new prospects.
2. BLOOD DRIVE: 53 participants, 43 pints of blood collected. Thanks again to Katy Lindberg and all who volunteered to help. We will have another drive again in August.
3. PRAYER CARD TEAM: The team now consists of Tammy Krey, Jeannie Evans, Carol Tobin, Karen Swanstrom, and Katie Jenkins. I spoke to Jeannie and Tammy, they feel things are going along well. They have assigned months and names for the upcoming year. They get the lists to Dawn or to prayer team.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. WELCOME TRICIA BREMER: Welcome, Tricia as our council representative. Tricia shared her background, and said she's willing to help our ministry any way she can.
2. LEADERSHIP RETREAT APRIL 26: Noon at Schaar's Bluff. Tricia Bremer said she plans to attend. If anyone else can also go, please let Camille or Pastor know.

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3. OUTDOOR WORSHIP JUNE 14: Double Down Dare Devils will lead worship. Camille can pick up sundaes from Cub ahead. Pam, Mary C, Brenda, Darla and Glenda will help serve ice cream after service. Camille thought it was Fathers' Day, but it is not.
4. THANK YOU SENT: A thank you was sent to Emily Preston for her help with Art Night in March.
5. LEDUC CONCERT: Glenda has set up August 30 for us to serve pie and concert at LeDuc.
6. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DAY APRIL 22: We signed a card for Dawn, Camille can pick up flowers. thank her for her work for us.
7. MAY 5 MEETING WILL STAY THE REGULAR NIGHT:
8. EASTER: Glenda noted the outdoor sign nor website were changed to reflect the Easter Service times. Pastor would bring up with Worship& Music ministry. There was only one First Communicant, will be 14 Confirmands of 9-10 graders.
9. Pastor asked us to look at Youth and Families survey responses, how we could help families be involved, what kind of things could we offer in fellowship?

****Additional discussion from Tricia – the group is actively discussing how to bring in new members.***

STEWARDSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED
NO MEETING OR UPDATES FOR THIS MONTH

HR REPORT

NATALIE CARDA

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Training continued throughout March with Dawn Owen. IT support was provided by our outside service. This made a significant impact on completion of weekly bulletins and monthly newsletter. Both were completed as scheduled.

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

MARIA GATHJE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Service Debrief: Services throughout Lent and Holy Week went well. Palm Sunday parade with bells and participants of all ages was well done. All musical groups, including the Easter Brass,

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and song leaders did a nice job. Attendance at the 10:30 AM Easter service was significantly less than last year (125). Updating the road sign and website were suggestions to help that. Next year the brass will likely play at the 10:30 service. It was suggested that there would have been opportunities for the bells to play at the 8:30 Easter service, which will be considered in the future.

Worship Leaders: It is important that all recruiting of special worship leaders be done in a timely manner, in particular music leaders, ensuring that they are asked to fulfill a worship leader role. Attention will be given to this in future planning. There also must be clear communication about duties that need attending to for worship. Becky will send information to worship coordinators to help them monitor this, when appropriate. All assigned worship leaders are to tell the worship coordinators when they arrive to worship that they are there to serve. Hymn lists for worship will be reviewed in advance so that any unfamiliar hymns get special attention by song leaders. With no success recruiting the hiring of a music director, we will continue for now as is.

Music planning:

- April 19: Unity
- April 26: Bells, song leader: Maria Gathje
- May 3: Praise Band, Meg
- May 10: Adult choir
- May 17: Unity
- May 24: song leader: Maria Gathje (Memorial Day weekend)

Council: Spring leadership retreat will be April 26 at Schaar's Bluff.

Summer Outdoor service: June 14 with Double Down Daredevils

****Council discussion - Need to ensure special services are listed on the church website, Facebook, and the sign is changed outside in a timely manner.***

LEARNING MINISTRIES REPORT

JEN KLOS

PRESCHOOL

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

1) Registration numbers for next year are as follows:

M-W-F 9:00 to 12:00- 16 spots filled

T-TH 9:00-12:00- 6 spots filled

Current classes

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18 TTH

- 2) New pump was put in under ELC2 sink after some flooding took place.
- 3) April events include conferences, teddy bear adoption, librarian visit, and culvers night (April 28th 500-700)
- 4) Spring field trip May 7th Carpenter's nature center. Theme colors in nature.
- 5) Reviewed the budget. Thanks to many kind donations and the support of Raise Right our budget looks very good this year! Raise right covers most of supplies, health nurse visit, and some extra fun things that would not otherwise be able to do.
- 6) Next meeting April 11th at 4pm

FAITH FORMATION

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

NO MEETING OR UPDATES FOR THIS MONTH

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Review of rest of schedule for Spring 2026:

April 5: Easter – no ASG

April 12: Starkson program, Pastor will be there to give his perspective

April 19: Pastor's 3rd Sunday thing. Topic this month: AI in the church

April 25: Columbarium committee, Judy Hanson leading

May 3: Either Ms. Caryn Josephson from Bega Kwa Bega rescheduled from the March 15th snowstorm or the two Jewish gentleman if Doug already has them scheduled. Jennie or Doug will submit newsletter and bulletin blurb when Doug responds to email about whether he already has the date filled.

May 10: Mother's Day, done for the season

Summer plans:

Pastor planning Campfire Conversations monthly again in the summer

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Fall: No specific plans yet.

Pastor surveyed < 40 y/o adults: Some possibly interested in a Bible study at the Brewery, which he might lead.

Some young parents interested in Worship Wanderers coming back. Pastor indicates, if so, would need to be lay, not staff, led.

Maybe at the April meeting we should discuss what the future of ASG is.

Current members getting a bit burned out and recruiting new committee members has not been successful so far.

Next meeting April 27th, 6 pm, via Zoom link from Chuck.

****Council discussion – ASG looking for new members and ideas.***

COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

JOHN NYE

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Larry Imm from PC Bonkers ran a report based on our current IT assets and **I have attached that below**. Several meetings have occurred with our IT Support, Larry Imm. He assisted in re-connecting the Google Calendar to our website, which also feeds into the RiseVision Screen (Narthex).

Ashley Bird of Three Eyed Bird continues to process updates to our website, as Deborah provides her with current information.

Soon, Deborah will request the Ministry Teams to review our website to determine what relating to their team needs updating. Updates will be forwarded to Deborah to coordinate with Ashley.

CMT does not have any other updates from their most recent meeting.

Report on Initial Survey of Personal Computers at St. Philip's of Hastings, MN by Larry Imm of PC Bonkers

Findings

St. Philip's of Hastings is a moderately sized church hosting various on-site events and regular activities. Its staff size and supporting information technology resembles an appropriately-sized small business. Files generated by church activity are stored locally, but assisted by web-based services, like Church Windows, QuickBooks Online, Google Docs and MS 365. Every computer has a functioning mainstream anti-virus service, and is modern enough to run current software

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and app standards. No computer appears to have remote desktop software that would allow an outside attacker to take control of a computer's mouse & keyboard from a remote location. We have just started to discuss a backup strategy.

Most computers are responsive and prompt during sign-in and use with one notable exception: the 14- year old Dell in the Music Office kept us waiting for hours. I can't see anybody being reasonably productive with this computer slowing them down. Wondering if there's any other problem PCs ready for replacement, I came up with this table and scoring system:

Comp Name	SN or ID	Born on	Drive Type	RAM	Cores	Score
CHILDRENFF	PF5BR9T5	2025-Jul	SSD	8	16	0
DESKTOP-OKVD2N3	MJ06WUS3	2018-May	HDD	8	8	23
FINANCELAPTOP	PF2S3P57	2021-Jun	SSD	8	8	5
LAPTOP-QETIRFE1	R90TD05L	2019-Mar	SSD	4	8	14
PRESCHOOL	PF1CSCB2	2020-Jan	SSD	3	4	12
SND35NPS1	D35NPS1	2012-May	HDD	6	4	32
YOUTHLAPTOP	PF2BFWKQ	2020-Dec	SSD	8	12	5

Higher scores indicate higher priority of replacement, with scores determined by memory, age, and storage type. User experience could be another indication of replacement. In some cases, upgraded hardware, such as replacing spinning magnetic HDD with solid state drive, can be more economical if the rest of the computer is in good condition. I did not get a chance to profile the laptop inside of the AV booth.

Recommendations

- Replace the oldest Dell in the Music Office if the position is ongoing.
- Continue discussions on backup strategy, cloud storage, and how these two complement each other.
- Monitor admin's and pastor's computers for signs of instability; e.g., program freezing or crashes, sudden power-downs, screen glitches, noisy fans, etc.

****Council discussion regarding action – Need to figure out from users of computers how often they're used and by whom, then we can decide whether we will replace. Pastor will follow up on the oldest computers' users. Need to follow up on computer replacements and cloud/remote storage next meeting.***

PASTOR'S REPORT

PASTOR GREG GEIER

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

- I have tried to attend or at least be in touch with our ministry teams
- Three hospital visits and multiple pastoral care conversations and a premarital counseling session.

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- Midweek services and Holy Week services went well.
- Easter services went well, but attendance was 75 fewer than last year.
- I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association on March 25th at Hastings Family Service.
- I lead worship at Park Ridge and at Oak Ridge on March 25th
- Preschool Chapel on March 25th, April 8th and 9th
- Synod Spring Ministerium at St. Paul Reformation on March 26th
- Attended SPLC Family Carnival on March 28th
- Attended SPLC Middle School Event on March 29th
- Attended HHS Vocal Concert on March 31st
- I participated in our Sunday Adult Forum on March 12, and led our Sunday Adult Forum on the 19th
- On Sunday, April 12, I, Dan Strehlow, Kathy Luedke, and Katy Lindberg attended a "Meet the Candidates Event" at Roseville Lutheran Church to hear the pre-nominated candidates for bishop.
- I checked in on the High School Game Night on April 12th (and got 2nd place in a Kahoots game!)
- Our Council/Leadership Retreat will be April 26 at the Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center from 11:30-5:00
- I think that's it.

On a personal note: I flew to San Diego on April 14th and will return on the 18th to be with my parents following my father's hospitalization for pneumonia, COPD, and congestive heart failure. As I write this I am very optimistic that everything will be fine, but my brother who lives near them is out of the country and we both thought one of us should be there. I am able to work remotely to complete necessary tasks.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

****Note: Need RSVPs for Leadership Retreat by this Wednesday, 4/22/26.***

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

JULY 4TH EVENT

Dolores will confirm date and time of the parade. Can set up lawn games, hand out water, freebies (maybe), fans and advertise what St. Philip's has to offer. Need to find a banner or print a new one if it can't be found.

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YOUNG ADULT/YOUNG FAMILY OUTREACH

Pastor has met with several groups regarding the young adult/young family ideas and asked for ideas about how the ideas might be implemented.

PARKING LOT REPAIR

Dan will follow up with Glenda.

Dolores Pemble made a motion to allow up to \$4000 for parking lot repairs without additional Council approval.

Tricia Bremer seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

TECH REPORT

Need to collect input on computer usage from users before deciding which to replace. Pastor will reach out to those who are currently using the oldest computers.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

Need to direct HR to post opening for the position.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Suggestion was made that donations should be made to current funds rather than creating new funds.

Dan made the motion to keep future donations to the current funds with no new funds being created.

Tricia Bremer seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

Dolores Pemble made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Maria Gathje seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 7:03 PM.

CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR GEIER LED THE GROUP IN CLOSING PRAYER

SUBMITTED BY SAMMI WARNECKE, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY