

COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 17, 2026, 6:00 PM
HELD IN PERSON

IN ATTENDANCE

MARIA GATHJE, DOLORES PEMBLE, TRICIA BREMER, SAMMI WARNECKE, JEN KLOS, NATALIE CARDA, JUDY HANSEN, JOHN NYE, PASTOR GREG GEIER

ABSENT

DAN STREHLOW

CALL TO ORDER

VICE PRESIDENT JUDY HANSEN – 6:03PM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAMMI WARNECKE

No changes noted to July Council Meeting Minutes.

Natalie Carda made a motion to approve the July minutes.

Jen Klos seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DOLORES PEMBLE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

FMT met on Monday, August 10. We discussed and approved the July Financial reports. Our Liability and Workers Comp Insurance policies have been renewed with a 10.37% increase. We are starting the 2027 budget process. All ministry teams should be receiving their budget worksheets around September 1. The expenditures will be complete up to July 31, 2026. Completed worksheets should be turned in to FMT by October 26, 2026. We discussed the additional expenses that were proposed by Building & Grounds and determined they should be within their budget to go ahead with. It was noted that there will soon be a need for a new soundboard which could be a major expense. Ron updated us on the Mary Fischer Scholarship Fund which has been performing well. Since 2013, the fund has provided \$27,000 in scholarships from an original donation of \$25,000. This year \$2,250 was awarded. Next meeting September 14, 2026.

Jen Klos made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Maria Gathje seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion carries.

Note from the Treasurer: A reminder to please relay Council decision in a timely manner to respective ministry teams.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

VP JUDY HANSEN

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

The team met on August 10. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 12 at 6 p.m. The fall cleanup day is set for Saturday, October 24 from 9 to 11:30. Other details from the meeting follow.

The parking lot will be repaired by Seal King on August 19. Cost is \$1,560. Walls throughout the main narthex will be repaired and painted. An oak chair rail to match those under the coat racks in the old narthex will be added to the wall by the old welcome center to prevent further damage. Corner protectors will be installed on all necessary corners. The 2013 Construction Notebook will be consulted when selecting the two paint colors. Rivertown Tree will remove the dead ash tree near the fire pit for \$1,150. They will also drill out the three small crab tree stumps from this summer's tree removal. Cleaning of the gutters will be scheduled in the next month, or two.

The bike rack requested by council for the cement pad out front is still being discussed. The plan is to shop for a portable rack which will hold 5 bikes, looking for quality and yet cost effective. Also, an inground basketball pole and hoop will be researched and purchased by a donor. Jay Webber, who works with the City on recreational installations, will be consulted about the bike rack and basketball pole/hoop selections. The team decided to accommodate the ELC's need for parking lot sign storage. The signs are moved two times every school day. The plan is to create a 3' X 6' concrete pad adjacent to the existing pad. The team has decided to acquire its own battery powered hedge trimmer and leaf blower, with both tools using the same battery. More research will be done and presented to the team before the purchases are made.

SERVING MINISTRY REPORT

TRICIA BREMER

FELLOWSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

OLD BUSINESS:

1. OUT DOOR SERVICE IN JUNE: Had 100 ice cream cups purchased, a lighter crowd, so maybe 20 left. Kids activities also available. Mary, Glenda and Brenda served.
2. NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION AUG. 2: Three households joined: Darlene Bender, Kathy Boron and Barb Hayne. Reception followed with bars, set up by Glenda. Mary C, Brenda, and Patty served. Glenda will ask Darlene to join fellowship team.

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3. BLOOD DRIVE THURSDAY, AUG. 20: Noon-6:00 Katy Lindberg has a sign up on kiosk for helpers and link for donors. All slots of volunteers seemed to be covered.
4. FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: Hoffmans, Todnems, Pemples, Glenda, Darla, Deb Frandrup, Kathy Boron all helped purchase, bring coolers and ice or distribute water. Steve W helped with setting up the new sign. 360 bottles of waters were purchased. Total of ice and water \$78. It's suggested that wagons be used to distribute water and to try to recruit younger members and families, as it is heavy work. Leftovers available for youth or whoever afterwards. Margaret was in the parade on a trishaw.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. LEDUC CONCERT AND PIE SUNDAY, AUG.30: Double Down Dare Devils is the band. Glenda will organize with getting the supplies to LeDuc. Volunteers should arrive at 5:00, serving at 6:00, concert goes from 6:30-8:30. We will advertise the money made is for LSS. There will be a sign up for volunteers beginning Aug. 9. Pies, brownies, coffee, ice cream will be served.
2. GARDEN SHARING: A few items are coming in. Will be articles in bulletins and newsletter.
3. PHILADAZZLE: Nov. 29 is First Sunday of Advent. It was agreed to continue with the event, looking for more on a steering committee to help in planning and on the day. Camille had reached out to St. Croix Chordsmen, barber shop quartet music. They seemed interested, may be a small or large group available. Hopefully Lydia can line up help with the youth as servers.
4. BUDGET AND EXPENSES: We had a budget of \$6200 for the year; we have about \$3719 remaining. Donuts cost around \$30/wk. Donuts weren't made ahead for Aug. 9. Camille will talk to Cub about the problem.

STEWARDSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Stewardship met Tuesday Aug. 11.

The fall campaign was discussed with a number of decisions made.

The theme if the campaign will be "Blessed to be a Blessing" based on Genesis 12:2. The message of this theme is that it reinforces how individual and collective blessings are multiplied when shared, fostering a spirit of generosity across generations.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 22. A pancake/sausage complimentary breakfast will follow worship with RSVPs requested.

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The large stewardship packet with cover letter, brochure, pledge card/envelope, breakfast reservation card and maybe a time and talent sheet will be in the packet. It will be assembled by the committee on Nov. 5.

If you are wondering why I question the time and talent form going in every year, It feels redundant to me as that is very frequent. New members receive them on membership . It takes considerable office time to tabulate them annually. I'll take it up at our next meeting.

Temple Talks leading up to Stewardship Sunday will be Sept. 20, Oct. 18. And Nov 8th. Recruitment is underway to secure members to do the talks.

Gerri Lundby will continue to secure writers for "keeping connected" for the monthly newsletter.

HR REPORT

NATALIE CARDA

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Nothing to report.

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

MARIA GATHJE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Service Debrief: Services have been going well. Average attendance for July was 136. Pastor Geier has been working on keeping the services from going too late. There is a ten-minute grace period for the on-line service, and it has stayed within that scope. Meg and her friend who sang with her on August 2 did a nice job. Songs were comfortable to sing.

Worship Leaders: There was a delay in the post office mailing out newsletters for July and the worship leader assignments were not available the first Sunday of the month. The newsletter is now available online and Dawn will ensure that the worship leader schedule gets out via email in a timely manner.

Music planning

LuAnn will be conducting a Bells workshop on Saturday, September 12 for anyone (all ages) interested in trying them. This will be followed by the Bells doing some easy songs the next day in worship for Rally Day.

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Music leaders:

- Aug 16: Unity
- Aug 23: Jan Kochendorfer, song leader
- Aug 30: Lori Best, song leader
- Sept 6: Praise Band, Meg Rein
- Sept 13: (Rally Day) Bells; Maria Gathje, song leader
- Sept 20: Unity
- Sept 27: Bells, song leader:_____

LEARNING MINISTRIES REPORT

JEN KLOS

PRESCHOOL

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

No meeting held.

FAITH FORMATION

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

No meeting held.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Budget

For 2026, assume \$600 budget

\$100 for Krishona Martinson, Krishona declined honorarium

\$100 for Jim Dontje & Laura Lindell, [paid]

Others?

Newsletter: Next submission will be done by August 15 for September.

Mics: Doug talked to John Diischer about storing and charging at the sound (AV) center in the sanctuary. Doug will reconnect with John to make sure this can be done.

September

9/13 Rally Day

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9/20 Pastor Geier on his choice of a program (if this fits his calendar)

9/27 Wire Word program lead by Chuck Clanton

October

10/4 Wire Word program lead by Jennie Orr Thomas

10/11 Brain storming session on future Adult Forum programs lead by Doug Schultz

Future of Adult Forums

Discussion was conducted on the future of the Adult Forum program; thus the Oct. 11 program. The current three members are getting burned out, finding it difficult to generate program ideas, low attendance (only six people for the last Tanzania program) and lack of new committee members.

COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

JOHN NYE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

No meeting held.

PASTOR'S REPORT

PASTOR GREG GEIER

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

- Most all of our ministry teams have resumed regular meetings. I have also visited our members in nursing homes, assisted living or otherwise homebound.
- There have also been numerous hospital visits since our last council meeting and many pastoral care conversations and pre-marriage meetings.
- Had our third and final Campfire Conversation last night on August 16th which focused on Sabbath as a Source for an Abundant Life, and the theme: God's Sufficiency & Our Generosity. Namely Do we trust that God is enough?
- I led worship at Oak Ridge on July 29th
- I had a meeting with Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop on July 30th and agreed to serve another term on our synod's candidacy committee.
- I led worship at Benedictine on August 3rd.

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- I met with newly elected Bishop Justin Grimm on August 7th. (Technically, I took him fishing, but we did talk about church stuff and he is going to come and preach at St. Philip's on April 18, 2027 and be available for our Adult forum.)

On a personal note, thank you for treating my parents like celebrities during their visit on the 26th.

Discussion held during meeting:

- Staff planning meeting was held
- Support Ministry Fair
 - Should we hold something this November? Should they be held every year? Every 3 years?
 - Take the discussion to ministry teams and be ready to discuss at the next Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING VOLUNTEERS

- No new info yet.
- Waiting until after summer is over and youth are less busy.
- Registration not due until early October.
- Table discussion until next month's Council meeting.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Looking for new ideas and new members.
- Ideas for supporting recruitment
 - Announcement during worship
 - Adding an insert in the bulletin for several Sundays in a row with a survey for meeting topics and willingness to coordinate, volunteer, or speak. The insert can be dropped into the collection plate.

ADJOURNMENT

Jen Klos made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Tricia Bremer seconded the motion.

*All in favor, the motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at **6:37 PM**.*

CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR GEIER LED THE GROUP IN CLOSING PRAYER

SUBMITTED BY SAMMI WARNECKE, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY