

Held In Person

In Attendance: Dan Strehlow, Maria Gathje, John Nye, Pastor Greg Geier, Judy Hansen, Dolores Pemble, Trish Bremer, Sammi Warnecke

Absent: Jen Klos, Natalie Carda

Meeting called to order by President Dan Strehlow at **6:04 PM**.

Secretary's Report – Sammi Warnecke

Pastor Geier noted an update was needed for the January 2026 council meeting minutes: The voting was actually done first at the annual meeting, not after the budget. Sammi made the edit to the January 2026 meeting minutes and will email the updated version to members of the Council.

Dolores made a motion to approve the edited version of the minutes.

Maria seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

The Finance Ministry Team met on Monday, Feb. 9. January Financial reports were approved. The team was thanked for their support of the Annual Meeting as well as the Budget meeting. The audit was completed January 14 with no issues. Ron Toppin is now the additional check signer with Lista's retirement. New business was a discussion on a request from the Columbarium committee to separate their funds from the designated accounts. After some discussion, FMT moved to continue one fund for all designated accounts, but profit/loss will be distributed proportionately among all line items at the end of each calendar year. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 9.

Judy made a motion to approve the January 2026 Finance Report.

Trish seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion carries.

Vice President Judy Hansen-Buildings and Grounds

No Council Action Required

Current members are Steve Wolverton, Bill Pavlish, Al Todnem, Dave Tank, Paul Swanstrom, Bruce Arndtson, Tricia Bremer, David Tireman, and Glenda Schnirring as convenor.

Special thanks to Dan Strehlow and Wayne Fahlstrom for their service. They left the team in 2025. The first meeting for 2026 will be on March 2. Agenda discussion will center on immediate repairs, grounds and parking lot needs, & spring adjustments to the building's upkeep.

The parking lot has excessive cracking. Tundra will be approached again for repairs.

Light bulb changing is constant, led by Steve Wolverton. HVAC oversight has been active in the administration wing, spearheaded by Bill Pavlish. Adopt a Spot worked well in 2025 & will be offered to members again in April.

Serving Ministry Report—Trish Bremer

Fellowship:

No Council Action Required

DEVOTIONS: DARLA shared a story about how a simple message with a TSA encounter could change an attitude.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. ART CLASS: We set Friday, March 6 for crushed glass, resin art class. We have a poster and signup for the kiosk ready for Feb. 8. The information will be in Sunday bulletins and March newsletter. We don't have to collect money; the instructor can be paid directly through the website. Emily Preston said she could help people for signing up and payments.
2. CARE PACKAGES FOR 2025 GRADS: Devotional books (*Pocket Prayers* by Max Lucado), cards, and \$10 gift cards were sent to 4 grads from last year.
3. LISTA KLOCOW RETIREMENT JAN. 25: We had a lovely reception, lots of help on set up, serving and cleaning up. Many of Lista's family members were able to join us. Many compliments for a nice reception! Expenses rounded from Cub: sheet cake \$70, large deli tray \$70, crackers? \$12; flowers for altar and Lista from Hastings Flower Co \$98.
4. NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION JAN 18: Six families joined. Great help with bars and set up and clean up. Jeannie Evans helped along with many of our team.
5. EDUCATORS APPRECIATION GIFTS: Available for pick up Feb. 1 & 8. The costs are approximately \$150 for 34 recipients. We'll get details from Camille Oster-Johnson.
6. DONUT HOLES: We will be given an extra \$1500 for our budget. Donut costs will come from that for the year. Money collected each Sunday will go into the general fund.
7. POTLUCK SUNDAY FEB. 1: We had lots of wonderful help on Sat. Set up and throughout the morning on Sunday. We had an extra serving table, and that seemed to work well. There were 74 registered for the annual meeting, not all stayed for potluck.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. BLOODMOBILE TUESDAY, MARCH 18: 12:00-6:00 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 11-NOON Set up

12:00-2:00 Greet Check In

2:00-4:00

4:00-6:00

6:00 Hang around while Red Cross packs up

2. BELLS OF THE BLUFF concert MAY 9: LuAnn Roiger asked for help with coffee as she has a reception of sandwiches, cakes, lemonade and coffee. She'd like round tables set up throughout the narthex. Thinking about 100 guests. Brenda is available to help.

Stewardship:

No Council Action Required

The Stewardship Team will begin its year with members, Al Todnem, Gerri Lundby, Dan Strehlow, Jeannie Evans, Sam Willis, Deborah Dreher, Krystal Ebel, and Glenda Schnirring as chair.

Live meeting activity will cease during Lent, and on through July. Activity will be a monthly article in the newsletter called "Stewardship Bits". Also monthly, is the article called "Keeping Connected" coordinated by Gerri Lundy. This feature began during Covid in 2020 and has remained a valued addition to the newsletter.

The theme for 2026 is "Rooted in Gratitude, Growing in Faith" which will be what will be reflected on for the "Stewardship Bits" articles.

Glenda Schnirring , Chair

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

New Hire Orientation for Dawn Owen was completed on January 19, 2026. The next two weeks included training with Lista Klocow along with completion of procedure manuals and task timeline.

Regarding my previous request for IT Support, clarification was given to the CMT Ministry Team. Three tasks in question: maintenance of the Welcome Center screen, monthly request of LiveControl sessions and maintaining the SPLC website. In addition, ongoing IT Support is needed for setting up new users, deleting users, adding new computers, updating existing computers to Windows 11, in addition to other miscellaneous IT issues. February 6, we received an email from John Nye, indicating CMT would contact vendors to bid for our external IT support.

After Lista's departure, she informed us she was unable to merge all emails, contacts, saved bookmarks, and files into Dawn's account. Today, we copied data files to Dawn's account, over 9,000 files. We still need assistance with the email accounts.

Updated salary changes, with retroactive earnings figures were submitted to our payroll provider, LA Anderson, CPA. After the 2026 Budget was approved, changes were processed. Annual

Employee Salary letters will be prepared, distributed to employees and copies to employee personnel files.

****Delegated to HR during meeting: Hiring a Director of Children's Music**

**Worship Ministry Report– Maria Gathje
No Council Action Required**

Present: Lori Best, Cynthia Clanton, Maria Gathje, Darlene Olson, Marjorie Peterson, LuAnn Roiger, Becky Raimann, Pr. Geier

Service Debrief: Services have been going well. Appreciation was expressed for the February 1 worship service that focused on the current conditions of our state and country. Musical groups have all been adding to the worship experience. Musical balance of groups has been good both in person and online.

Annual Meeting: Generally went well. It was suggested that the meeting leader clearly restate the names of nominees for positions made at the meeting, that all people making motions stand and have their names clearly stated, and any discussion be repeated by the leader. It was determined that anyone using a hand-held microphone is not being picked up through Zoom and makes it difficult to follow for those attending remotely.

Lent/Easter Planning:

- Flowers will be delivered on Good Friday and assembled the next day.
- LuAnn will offer to assist with paraments, as Lois is gone for the month.
- LuAnn will set the Holden booklets on the Welcome Center counter on Wednesday, Feb 25. They are stored in the music office. Becky will inform the worship coordinators of duties.
- Pr. Geier will be on leave March 18. He will prepare a sermon which will be read by a lay member.
- Two Easter services: 8:30 will be traditional with brass, which will be live streamed. 10:30 will be a Praise Worship, not streamed.
- All Lenten services will be live streamed on static mode. Holden booklets will be used with no slides necessary.

Music planning:

- Feb 18 Ash Wed: Unity
- Feb 22: Bells, Song Leader: Maria Gathje
- Feb 25, Lent1 Wed: Song Leaders: Maria Gathje & David Weisser
- Mar 1: Praise Band, Meg
- Mar 4, Lent2 Wed: Song Leaders: Lori Best & Ryan Hummel
- Mar 8: Adult Choir
- Mar 11: Lent 3Wed: Becky Raimann & Dolores Pemble
- Mar 15: Unity
- Mar 18: Lent 4Wed: Maria Gathje & Raul Jackson
- Mar 22: Bells, song leader: Maria Gathje
- Mar 25: Lent 5Wed: TBD
- Mar 29: Palm Sunday. Song Leader: Becky Raimann

Other:

- John Diischer will now be responsible for scheduling *Live Control* services directly.
- Altar Guild is looking at the purchase of a new advent wreath with memorial donation.

Next Meeting: March 3, 2026 at 6 PM; in person or via Zoom, devotions?

Respectfully submitted by Becky Raimann

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

Pre-School:

No Council Action Required

Attending: Annette, Lois, Becky, Lorelei

- Enrollment has stayed the same at 44 spots filled

- Tuition for next year was discussed. After reviewing other preschools in the area rates for either next year if available or current the following was decided

M/W/F will go from \$215 a month to \$220

T/Th will go from \$180 a month to \$185

M-F will go from \$325 a month to \$330

Registration fees will stay at \$60

These prices will be \$5 less then Tilden's for T/THz and the same M/W/F classes and for 5 days. (note Tilden is a 2 ½ hours a day and we are 3)

- Registration for the 2025/2026 school year starts for current and church families Feb 10th and opens to everyone Feb 17th at 5:30. We will have public registration night from 5:30-6:30 on the 2/17.

- Budget was reviewed.

- Upcoming events Culvers night 1/27 from 5-7, youth expo at the high school, Valentines parties, and local author coming to read to us.

- Next meeting will be Feb 9th at 4:00

Faith Formation:

No Council Action Required

- Started talking about middle and high school events being canceled if we don't get volunteers. Not what we want but we must have at least two adults on sight when children are present. Ideas to get more adults also discussed.
- Camp Wapo is where our kids are going this year. This was brought to Lydia by the families that have kids camp age as where they wanted to go. Lydia has set up/saved 10 spots for St. Philip's kids. So far 4 are going and one is pending.
- Valentines card event for middle schoolers had 6 kids. High school event Sunday the 22nd is a escape room type event.
- We started talking about putting some kind of child friendly toy/book in welcome bags for new member families. We will look into this more and then reach out to fellowship to see if this would work.

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**St. Philip's Lutheran Church
Hastings, Minnesota**

- February children's event will be held Friday the 13th. It is going to be a potluck and craft making night. Families were invited to enjoy a meal together and then create crafts that will be put around the church Sunday morning for the congregation. As of 2/12 25 people have signed up to attend. March will be a family carnival event. We also have first communion classes scheduled for 14th & 28th.
- Next meeting March 10th at 7:00

Adult Spiritual Growth:

No Council Action Required

Attendance: Doug Schultz, chair, Pastor Greg Geier, Chuck Clanton, Jennie Thomas

Newsletter: Who can submit info in February for March Newsletter? Jennie will

Budget

For 2026, \$600 budget

\$100 for Krishona Martinson, Chuck promised, Krishona declined honorarium

\$100 for Jim Dontje & Laura Lindell, Chuck obtaining address

Others? Possibly two of the Tanzania speakers, need to have some for fall, too.

Updating sound system

Where to store the plastic box containing the RODE Wireless GO II?

How to charge mics? Chuck has been taking home to recharge. Plan: leave in closet, Jennie to check before church and plug in if needed in the North Room where they will be used. Chuck still taking them home to charge.

Where to store the notebook of user manuals – Not decided

Winter Tentative schedule:

February, 2026

2/1 Annual meeting

2/8 Synod on Tanzania, Jennie with slides from BKB

2/15 Krista Lind, Deacon & Assist to Bishop Lull; her work in the church, handling? Pastor, since he is coordinating her participation in the worship service?

2/22 Tanzania, life in, water supply & quality [Dontje / Lindell], Chuck handling

March

3/1 Pastor Kirsten Levorson, director of Bega Kwa Bega, Jennie will handle.

3/8 Tanzania. Dr. Ken Olson, Shoulder to Shoulder medical group working with Illula hospital in Tanzania. Jennie handling

3/15 Caryn Josephson from the Synod Iringa Committee

Mar 16-20 ISD200 Spring Break

3/22 Wired Word? Chuck Clanton or Pastor led session if he is available then (initially penciled in to March 15th, before Caryn Josephson took it.)

3/29 Palm Sunday – ? Biblical Escape Room, Jennie to check with Lydia about what she is using with the HS youth (Lydia is not using a Biblical one, but Jennie

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has found some Bible based ones and will check them out. Group on Feb 8 seemed open but not understanding what an "escape room" is.

April

4/5 Easter Sunday – no Adult Forum

4/12 Sarah Wise Schwieger, Starkson Family, Chuck is handling

4/19

4/26

May

5/3

5/10

5/17

5/24 Memorial Day weekend

Next meeting February 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Will try to complete the spring schedule so no meeting needed in March when Doug will be gone.

Possible Future Adult Forums

12 step program for treatment (??) by Lisa Bergert

A session brain storming, new blood [This might fit Palm Sunday, ask for topics for next year]

Jewish Community Relations Community—Part 2 If so, topics?

Tanzania, east central Africa—additional items?

Tanzania presentation from Sally S. Harris, PhD, in conjunction with the Lutheran Dioceses of Iringa, per Pastor Geier email of Sep 16. Several other resources found, including consultation with Pastor Kirsten Levorson who heads Bega Kwa Bega Stacy Carlson??

Medtronic building clinics [Chuck] [Assumed no since no personal connection] Medtronic LABS is one of the leading health systems innovators that develops community-based, tech-enabled solutions for underserved patients, families, and communities across the world. By bridging hyper-local services with cutting-edge technology, we provide sustainable and localized healthcare solutions that produce measurable patient outcomes for all.

Headquarters: Nairobi , KE

<https://ke.linkedin.com/company/medtronic-labs>

Programs and clinics in Tanzania

<https://www.medtroniclabs.org/programs/tanzania/>

Doug will look into this

University of Minnesota, Student Engineers without Borders projects [Chuck] [Assumed no since no personal connection]

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End of Life; death—additional items?

Mary S Carlsen [St Olaf, Northfield] local group on end of Life Choices Collective / Advance Care Planning (Oct 9, 2025 email to Chuck)

Also working with students [maybe] [St Olaf spring break, March 28-April 6
Cremation Society presentation

Federal Government – venting? Action items?

Possible annual program conflicts on Sunday morning

Jan/Feb Financial meeting

February Annual meeting

XX Officer installation, recognition reception

XX New member orientation

XX New member reception recognition

Late April / early May Teacher appreciation reception

June Graduation Recognition Sunday

September Rally Day; Sunday School Kick-Off

September New member program & reception

November Ministry Fair [is this an annual event?? Maybe every other year??]
Not this Fall, 2025

November Thanksgiving weekend

December Stewardship Sunday, breakfast [11/9/25]

December Christmas and New Year weekends

Week before Christmas a maybe; only 6 people for Dec. 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Jennie Thomas

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – John Nye

No report.

Pastor Geier – January 2026 Council Report

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

We need to decide upon a date for our Council/Leadership Retreat. If we wish to use the Gathering Center at Spring Lake Park, the soonest Sundays currently available are March 22, April 12 or April 26. I would prefer one of the April dates as the March date is at the end of Spring Break and it would be nice to have time to include an announcement in the Newsletter.

- I have tried to attend or at least be in touch with our ministry teams
- Two premarital counseling and upward of a dozen pastoral care conversations/visits.
- Two visits with new and potential members.
- Four hospital visits.
- Attended Love Your Neighbor Gathering and Fundraiser at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul on January 25.

- I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association on January 28.
- Met with Brian Scott, our new Lutheran World Relief liaison on January 27.
- I lead worship at Benedictine on January 26 and February 9 and at Oak Ridge on January 28.
- I served at our Preschool Night at Culvers on January 27
- Attended Annual Meeting and Potluck on February 1
- Attended Middle School Valentine Workshop on February 7
- Attended Hastings Concert Association meeting on February 10
- Attended Hastings All District Band Concert on February 10
- Attended a "Singing Resistance" webinar on February 12
- Attended our "Family Share the Love" Potluck and Crafts event on February 13
- Attended our synod conference assembly at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton on February 14
- I have sent emails to 30 "young adult" households and have heard back from 6. All the feedback shared appreciation for St. Philip's hospitality and inclusiveness. In addition, a few ideas have been shared:
 - We could potentially be interested in maybe a monthly low stakes event like a meal or book club (or brewery nite?) for young adults. But I want to be clear, that we are not committing to this right now.
 - We have always felt welcomed and included at St. Philip's and would love the opportunity to meet more of the congregation through some young adult events. All of the ideas you suggested would be of interest, but we would especially enjoy game nights!
 - Without childcare it is difficult for us to attend events.
 - Per the current state of the twin cities, we admittedly feel that if we're to add any service to our current schedule, it might be more aligned with showing up to protests or political demonstrations. But as the climate changes in the future (hopefully soon) know that we are willing to help out in service/charity events.
 - We've talked some about this, and honestly we really appreciate the community of the church. We enjoy it when we come and are happy to be members, and for us the open door is perfect.
 - We've enjoyed the outdoor activities that we've been able to join in the past (summer outdoor worship and family events).
 - Some of the family events have been geared towards older elementary aged kids, so it would be nice to have a family event for younger families possibly on a Saturday morning.
- I have also emailed 108 parents of adult children to inquire if they wish to remain connected to St. Philip's and attached a member information form if they did. Thus far, only two have indicated a desire to maintain membership and ten have said to remove them off our roles. We have over a dozen households that do not have an email address on file, so I will eventually mail them the letter with the member information form.
 - **Update: As of the 2/16/26 Council meeting Pastor has heard from over 20 individuals.**

Old Business

- Communication w/young adults: Pastor will try to have feedback compiled by April
- Director of children's music: no movement yet on this, Pastor has reached out without luck so far
 - **Move from Old Business to Natalie's HR report for her "to do" list for future**
- CMT Tech assistance: John has reached out to collect information about the totals of computers and other tech which needs support (Loffler has requested this); he has reached out to Dolores' contact to see about getting someone hired for this support position; John is hoping to have at least 3 bids by the end of the week
 - Website updates: John says he can handle that part himself
 - Changes needed for website
 - Difficult to navigate
 - Needs search function
 - Needs general facelift (modernization)
 - Pastor suggested including this in the group bidding as a service the tech support person would need to do.
 - Dolores will provide John with name of a person that helps with business website management

New Business

- March Food drive was approved via email
- Approval of annual meeting minutes
 - Dolores moves to approve minutes from the 2026 Annual Meeting
 - Judy seconds the motion
 - All in favor - motion carries***
- Council/Leadership retreat date: April 26th in the afternoon
 - Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center

Maria made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Judy seconds the motion.

All in favor - motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Pastor closes in prayer.

Submitted by Sammi Warnecke, Council Secretary.