COUNCIL MINUTES

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HASTINGS, MN
SEPT 21, 2026, 6:00 PM
HELD IN PERSON

IN ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT

NONE

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT DAN STREHLOW – **6:02PM**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAMMI WARNECKE

Additional ministry reports were submitted by Tricia Bremer following the previous meeting. Those were included in the updated August Council Minutes. All members reviewed the updated minutes and agreed to accuracy, no additional changes.

Dolores Pemble made a motion to approve the August minutes.
Jen Klos seconded the motion.
All in favor, the motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DOLORES PEMBLE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

St. Philip's Finance Ministry Team met on Monday, September 14. 2027 Budget was the main topic of discussion. Budget worksheets have been submitted to the appropriate Ministry Teams for review. Budget proposals are due back by October 26. 2027 Proposed budget will hopefully be presented to the church council in November. We received a midyear mission support update from St. Paul Area synod the our contributions totaled $25,490.50 from Feb. 1-July 31. 2026. Our next FMT meeting will be Monday October 12 at 6:30 pm.

Judy Hansen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report.
Jen Klos seconded the motion.
All in favor, the motion carries.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

VP JUDY HANSEN

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Parking lot crack fill was completed on August 19. Our dissatisfaction was reported and Seal King did return the following week to add fill to the cracks which were inadequate. Some areas are still not satisfactory. The bid from this vendor was 50% less than Tundra so we wanted to

give them a try. We don't expect to seek them out for the full lot coating and striping that will be budgeted for 2027. A dead ash tree by the fire pit was taken down by Rivertown Tree. Three small stumps from the flowering crab trees removed earlier on the north lawn were ground out that same day. A battery powered leaf blower and hedge trimmer have been purchased. Best price was ordering from Amazon. Precision was contacted for an extra tree watering during August as the lack of rain was stressing the younger trees.

Projects in progress: A bike rack for 5 bikes was ordered and has arrived. It will be anchored to the concrete pad out front. The ELC's driveway cones will also fit on the pad when not in use on school days. Steve Wolverton donated the selected bike rack which is enormously appreciated. No further details to report currently on the proposed basketball stand and hoop. As stated last month, this equipment will be financed with a donation. Regarding interior painting, a total of 84 corner protectors will be installed after the walls have been repaired and painted. Estimate is $400. Also, an oak board will be added to protect the wall where the small welcome center is parked when not in use. Gutter cleaning in the fall involves much ladder work. Our team recommends the purchase of gutter covers for the Prayer Garden area. Estimate is $227. Recently, a presence of large black beetle type bugs and a few spiders has been noted. We are considering a contract with Plunkett's Pest Control.

Our next meeting is October 12. A fall grounds cleanup day is scheduled for October 25, from 9 to 11:30. The plan is to cut down selected perennials, blow leaves out of the prayer garden and bag them.

Council Meeting Discussion: St. Philip's already has a contract with Plunkett's Pest Control. Dolores confirmed that on Sept. 17 they were on the premises and applied a spray for spiders and crawling insects. Plunkett's included in their post-service notes to allow 1-2 weeks for full effect. Judy will follow up with Glenda.

SERVING MINISTRY REPORT

TRICIA BREMER

FELLOWSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

OLD BUSINESS:

1. LE DUC PIE AND DOUBLE DOWN DARE DEVIL CONCERT AUG 30: We had a very successful evening collecting $863 to go towards our LSS contributions. All 22 pies (cut into sixths, boxed and labeled) were sold, 3 pans of brownies, 3 buckets of ice cream. Next year 1 brownie pan enough. Six helped set up tables at 4:45, 11 people helped cut

up and box pies at 5:15. Take down at 8:20. There were 13 bakers, 4 monetary donations. Slice was $4, ice cream, coffee and water $1.
Attendance of 100.

2. PHILADAZZLE NOV. 29: Maragaret and Camille came up with a theme of "Old Fashioned Christmas" . The St. Croix Valley Chordesmen Barber shop quartet choir is interested in being our entertainment. Weissers, Gladys Campbell, Margaret said will help with planning, we're hoping for more from past steering committee. Emily Preston and Brenda offered to head kitchen duties. There will be advertising in the bulletins and newsletter for planning meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5:00. We spoke to Lydia to see if youth could be recruited, knowing they would receive money collected, (they might be middle school age.) Robyn Tank said that scouts were maybe interested, also. Camille has not talked to Dave yet.
3. RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE ON AUGUST 20: Katy said they collected 37 whole blood units, 40 were present of the 44 scheduled. Thanks to their efforts, up to 111 lives could be saved! Next date is confirmed for Tuesday, March 23, 2027.
4. NEW MEMBER FOR OUR COMMITTEE? Anyone recruited? With two of our ministry team not attending meetings at this time, we really would like to find other members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Brenda is stepping away from attending meetings, but will be available for Philadazzle and possible other areas when needed. She's been great keeping track of supplies for coffee and other needs.
   Darla also called to say she is no longer able to come to meetings, but would help when needed for events. **We thank both gals for ALL they have done for our ministry!**

2. HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN EVENT, OCTOBER 25? We haven't gotten the word yet, but assume it will continue and we'll need donations for hot chocolate, marshmallows and volunteers. Camille will get those sign ups made for the kiosk in middle Sept. (Oct. 25 is the same day as Confirmation.)
3. MORE VISIBILITY FOR MINISTRY? Pastor talked about how council would like to find ways to recruit other members of congregation to become involved. Two years ago we had a ministry fair in November. We didn't have ideas besides asking people directly to help with activities. We will continue to reach out whenever we can with announcements, bulletins, and newsletters.

4. HASTINGS CONCERT SERIES AMBASSADORS: The Hastings Concert Association is so pleased to have St. Philip's as their venue again this year. Last year we had someone from our congregation at each concert to help facilitate needs of the musicians or the hospitality people associated with Hastings Concert Association. We would like someone available 3 hours ahead of scheduled concert. Last year Glenda and Pembles helped with some of the concerts as members of our congregation. Camille is a member of the board this year, also, so offered to be a liaison for the year when needing to contact church staff. She and other board members met with John D. If you're interested in or know someone to represent our church at any of these concerts, please let Camille know.

   This year's concerts are:

Friday, Sept. 18	7pm
Saturday, Oct. 10	3pm
Friday, Dec. 4	7pm
Thursday, March 18	7pm
Thursday, April 1	7pm
Sunday, April 25	3pm

5. CONFIRMATION OCTOBER 25: There will be 15 confirmands, from 9th and 10th grades. Lydia asked if we could have some kind of reception to honor them and their families. We told her we will order a sheet cake with red and white icing. We can discuss more at the next meeting.

Council Meeting Discussion: Pastor has not received any information or request for us to participate in the Halloween "Candy Crawl" downtown event (trunk or treat), but according to the event's advertisement we are likely expected to attend. Pastor will put the event in the newsletter and we will plan to have a presence as usual.

STEWARDSHIP

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

The Stewardship Theme of the fall campaign is "Blessed to be a Blessing" taken from Genesis 12:3 Three Temple Talks will be heard starting Sept. 20 from Melissa Carlson-Schmidt Oct 18 - To Be Determined Nov. 8 - Chad or Natalie Carda Pledge Sunday is Nov. 22. A pancake/sausage complimentary breakfast immediately after worship. Pledges will be brought forward on the 22nd for the General Fund and the Mortgage Fund during 2027.Pledges will be welcomed throughout December of 2026.Every household (approx. 375, and new Confirmands) are reached with a mailed packet containing a message from Pastor Geier, a pledge card and return envelope, a pictorial brochure which includes financial data, a time and talent form and response card for attendance at the breakfast. Suggestions for breakfast kitchen workers were

listed. Recruitment on that need will follow. The Fellowship Room is reserved for the breakfast on Nov. 22nd. Sunday School classes will do lessons in the North Room. A logo was designed by Al Todnem and approved by the Stewardship Ministry Team on September 8. Gerri Lundby has secured names to do "Staying Connected " through January of 2027.

HR REPORT

NATALIE CARDA

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

The HR Ministry Team received a request from the Worship and Music Ministry Team to seek the position of Director of Music. The Worship and Music Ministry Team provided information to consider when updating the existing job description.

The HR Team will meet to review and update the current Job Description for the Director of Music. The Job Description will be forwarded to Worship and Music for additions or corrections. When approved, internal and external postings will occur.

In addition, updated information will be forwarded to the Finance Ministry Team for 2027 budgeting purposes.

WORSHIP MINISTRY REPORT

MARIA GATHJE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

Service Debrief: Services have been going well. Average attendance for August was 135. Pastor Geier continues to work on shortening the service to accommodate the timing for Sunday School this fall. Soundboard has been training new assistants. Song leader microphone should be on for all congregational singing and the Call to Worship so that words are distinct, especially for those listening online. Lori did a good job leading the congregation in an unfamiliar hymn.
Music planning: Pastor Geier will consult with Meg regarding All Saints service, November 1. There is an option to have the Praise Band switch Sundays in November if needed. Unity plans to sing the third Sunday of the month through December.
Music leaders:

- Sept 20: Unity
- Sept 27: Bells, song leader: Jan Kochendorfer
- Oct 4: Praise Band, Meg Rein
- Oct 11: Adult Choir
- Oct 18: Unity
- Oct 25: Bells/song leader: Jan Kochendorfer

Other: Altar Guild has been instructed on the best way to set up communion elements on the altar. Worship coordinators have been sent an update of duties to include monitoring of locking

up and lights out after worship. Kelsey will be asked if she would set up candles for lighting on All Saints Sunday. New communion kits have been ordered with wafer on the bottom. Altar Guild is in the process of ordering a new Advent wreath. HR has been sent a request to create a job description of a Director of Music for consideration of posting at colleges. The Bishop will be a guest preacher on April 18, 2027.
Council: Consideration of a Ministry Fair this fall is in the works. W&M is on board with whatever is decided. ASG is looking for new members. Finances are doing well.
Next Meeting: October 13, 5:30 PM, Devotions: Lori Best

LEARNING MINISTRIES REPORT

JEN KLOS

PRESCHOOL

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

- Last year's numbers MWF 23 TTH 18

Current numbers MWF 25 TTH 13.
MWF Lorelei and Kari 15 and Becky has 10
TTH Becky and Kari have 13

- First week updates. Start was very busy but starting to settle into routines. Needed to buy new items for the new arrangement of staff such as walkie talkies and a small fridge for ELC 1.
- Upcoming events include Rio agility team demo, fire truck visit, trunk or treat (Oct 24th), library visit(Nov).
- Culvers night Oct 26th 5-7
- Budget looks good with current numbers and staffing changes. Raise right and other donations/fundraisers are also helping us very much right now! All school supplies were bought with raise right, as well as the fridge, and walkie talkies.
- Next meeting Monday October 12th at 4:00

Council Meeting Discussion: Dolores confirmed $808 donated so far from the number envelope wall for Preschool Funds.

FAITH FORMATION

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

- Youth gathering has one person so far. Lydia has had three meetings with more scheduled.
- Moving ahead with fundraising for youth gathering, camp, and vbs t-shirts. Envelope wall is going up where people can donate cash, planning a forks of faith spaghetti dinner

for Feb 27th, other items are in our minds but waiting to see how many people want to fundraise.

- Confirmation orientation had 4 students but the following Wednesday had 11 students for the first night of class.
- Children ministry is getting ready for rally day events and kicking off the programing year. As of the meeting 11 students grade prek-5 had signed up. Hopeful to get more at rally day.
- Youth events for Sept are middle school lock in on the 19th and high school laser tag the 27th.
- Planning ahead for our next meeting Lydia and Becky will have a budget proposal ready for the team to review.
- Next meeting Oct 13th @ 700.

Council Meeting Discussion: Great turnout for middle school lockout - 17 kids participated and all voiced having a good time.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

No report submitted. Jen indicated during the meeting that new ideas and new members are still desired by the group.

COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

JOHN NYE

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

No minutes yet, meeting was delayed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

PASTOR GREG GEIER

NO COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED

- Attended or checked in with ministry teams. I have also visited nursing homes, assisted living or otherwise homebound members
- There have also been numerous hospital visits since our last council meeting and many pastoral care conversations and pre-marriage meetings and lunch meetings with three different members.
- On August 25th the Hastings Ministerial Association served donuts, fruit and coffee to the entire faculty and staff of the Hastings School District.
- I lead worship at Oak Ridge on August 26
- Had a wonderful evening at the LeDuc mansion on August 30th .

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- Confirmation resumed on September 2nd .
- Did a site visit for the Open Door food pantry in Eagan on September 8th for the Synod Hunger Task Force and then had a meeting on September 10th .
- Led our "Opening the Bible" class on September 12th.
- Participated in the Installation Service of Bishop Grimm on September 13th.
- Officiated at funeral service for David Fry on September 15th.
- Synod South Conference meeting at St. John's Lutheran in Lakeville on September 16th

OLD BUSINESS

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING VOLUNTEERS

- Keeping on the agenda for now to keep it on the radar.
- Jen will keep in contact with Lydia to keep up to date on the numbers of kids wanting to go. Goal is 5, Lydia has 2 now.
    - This will determine the volunteers needed for the gathering.

SUPPORT MINISTRY FAIR

- Proposed date of January 10, 2027
- Need to come up with clear guidelines: event goals, table display parameters
    - Help everyone come prepared in a similar way so all ministry teams are represented equally

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE CORNER PROTECTORS AND GUTTER COVERS – B&G

- No council approval needed – purchases are within budget and scope for the Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team

ADJOURNMENT

Tricia Bremer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Judy Hansen seconded the motion.
*All in favor, the motion carries and the meeting is adjourned at **6:53 PM.***

CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR GEIER LED THE GROUP IN CLOSING PRAYER

SUBMITTED BY SAMMI WARNECKE, CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY