

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
12650 JOHNNY CAKE RIDGE ROAD, APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
Date: 4/16/2026
On-Site Community Room

Attendees:

Paul Moyer, President	Pastor Corey Fuhrman
Merilu Narum, Vice President	Robin Robinson
Dick Rank, Treasurer	Brendan Henry
Carleen Melin, Secretary	Bill Wilken
Melissa Taphorn (not present)	Anne Hemmerlin (not present)
Jennifer Davidson*	Kelsey Young*
Pastor Peter Harrits*	Pastor Julie Wright*
Pastor Lindsey Bina* (not present)	Mark Ertl* (not present)

*denotes non-voting member

Centered in the love of God in Jesus;

Call to Order: President Paul Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Dick Rank shared an opening devotion and prayer.

Vision and Leadership Teams Reports:

Jennifer Davidson presented Bernie Zimmermann for Council VP. Carleen Melin moved to approve Bernie Zimmermann for Council VP. Merilu Narum seconded the motion and the council voted, 7-1, to approve Bernie's application.

The Council reviewed edits to the Conflict of Interest form. Dick Rank moved to approve the Conflict of Interest form. Brendan Henry seconded the motion and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the Conflict of Interest form.

Brendan Henry recapped attending 9th grade confirmation project track group. One small group wrote an impact statement about their nursery mural project Brendan shared quotes from. Groups did a 3x30x3 activity, walking through SOTV their observations on how spaces could be more welcoming. Unveiling of nursery mural on Wednesday, April 29th at 7PM.

Kelsey Young shared Lenten Mentoring wrapped up. Tanzania is being filtered into "Faith in Action" programming so it's more prominent for younger kids. Planning for summer and fall programming. Mid-week campfire worship throughout the summer. 75 folks showed up for family style Good Friday. CYF and Adult Ministries discussing inter-generational activities (like crafts or common book study).

Bill Wilken shared updates around Stewardship. Pastor Corey shared some data about giving for past two fiscal years. Larger amount of support, but fewer supporters. Losing those giving smaller amounts weekly. Did a deeper dive into "households" giving. Some households give annually and it may be a timing issue and expecting to receive gifts still. Still focusing on education around giving. Contemplating an ask of the congregation above and beyond typical giving.

Pastor Julie shared an update on Tanzania steering committee. Want to have a visioning session between mid-May and mid-June. Inviting Council and those who have traveled to Tanzania to participate. Pastor Peter will be traveling to Tanzania on the church's behalf August 4 – 20, 2026.

Pastor Corey shared the Synod accepted Constitution updates.

Pastor Peter shared updates from Equity. Anne Hemmerlin had some conversations with seniors in the congregation on their pain points and being able to participate in church life fully. Possible accessibility audit. Possibility of Equity to be in conversation with Properties? Possible ELCA grant opportunity in 2027 and leg work to do to prepare for.

Properties will meet in May for their quarterly meeting. Empty Nesters and Men's Coffee doing clean-up projects. Community gardens are open and full. Working heavily on budgeting with Don, Facilities Manager.

Finance is working on budgeting for the year: COLA, health insurance, family medical leave, etc. Open roles: Visitation Pastor, custodians, sound techs, fellowship and hospitality roles, family care attendants

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed the minutes to the March 19, 2026 Council Meeting. Date change needed. Dick Rank moved to approve the secretary's report of the Church Council meeting of March 19, 2026. Bill Wilken seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2026 Church Council meeting.

Finance Report: Dick Rank provided an overview of the March financials. Only down -\$5K for the month. YTD is \$35K. Budgeted to be \$120K. YTD giving is up 4%. Increase in QCDs from last year. April is a 3-payroll month so more than likely will end the month in the negative. Budget next steps, currently showing a deficit. Discussion of creating a "future needs fund" for capital expenses. Robin Robinson moved to approve the March finance reports. Merilu Narum seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve the March finance reports.

Vision Time: 3 months since staff retreat and having all rostered leaders at Council meetings. Reported more connections and being better informed. Seems like there's momentum from retreat and a concerted effort. Visioning shifting to Council. Proposing 6-month experiment to include rostered leaders. Carleen Melin moved to approve rostered leaders to attend and participate in Council Meetings for 6 months. Dick Rank seconded the motion, and the council voted unanimously, 8-0, to approve rostered leaders to attend and participate in Council meetings for 6 months.

New Business: Saint Paul Area Synod 2026 Assembly in May: electing a new bishop. 13 of 18 voting spots filled. Offering potluck as part of Congregational Meeting. Move meeting to Narthex area and start at 12:30 PM. 45th Anniversary committees are meeting. July 4th Saturday worship, okay with not having this year.

Adjourn: Council meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carleen Melin, Church Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting:

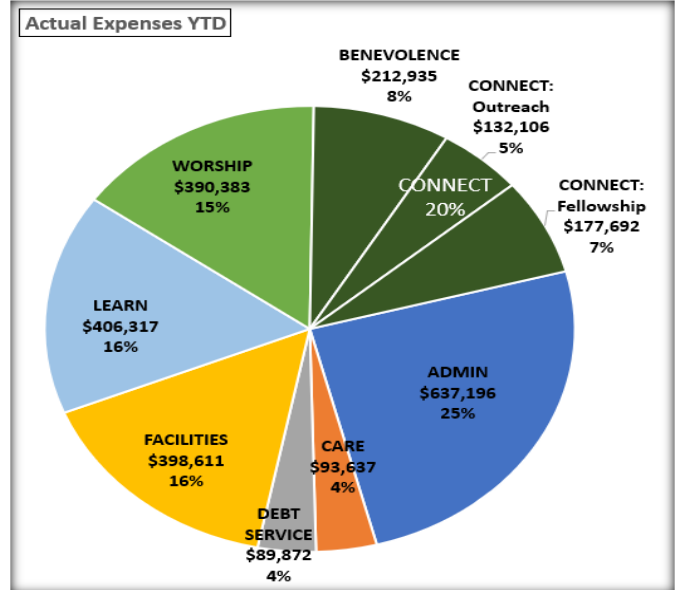
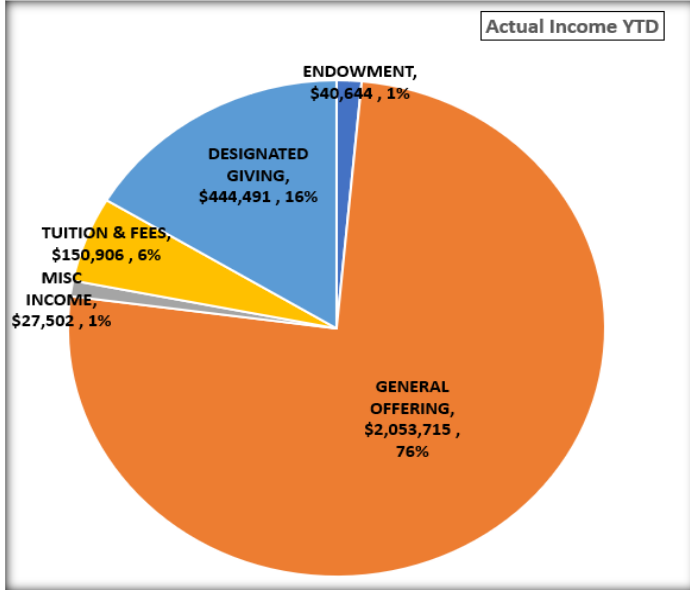
May 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM, in-person, Community Room
June 14, 2026 at 12:30 pm, Congregational Meeting (potluck at noon)
June 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM, in-person, Community Room
July 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM, in-person, Community Room

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Financial Summary for Church Council
For the 9 months ending April 30, 2026

<u>This Month</u>					<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>				
Actual	Prior Year	Variance	Budget	Variance		Actual	Prior Year	Variance	Budget	Variance
\$224,709	\$278,672	(\$53,963)	\$266,921	(\$42,212)	Income (includes Misc Inc)	\$2,081,217	\$2,058,631	\$22,585	\$2,289,477	(\$208,260)
\$12,203	\$12,733	(\$530)	\$15,215	(\$3,012)	Tuition/Fees	\$150,906	\$150,180	\$726	\$160,745	(\$9,840)
\$305,254	\$354,726	\$49,472	\$321,345	\$16,091	Expenses	\$2,264,580	\$2,206,821	(\$57,758)	\$2,369,266	\$104,686
(\$68,342)	(\$63,321)	(\$5,021)	(\$39,209)	(\$29,133)	Net	(\$32,458)	\$1,990	(\$34,448)	\$80,957	(\$113,414)

Income & Expenses (all funds) - actual YTD



Key Metrics

Total Fund Balances	Close of 7/31/2025	Close of 4/30/2026	YTD Increase (Decrease)	Minimum Balance	Above/(Below) Minimum
Designated	\$159,757	\$330,877	\$171,121	N/A	
Endowment	\$325,358	\$365,202	\$39,844	N/A	
General	\$690,569	\$650,611	(\$39,958)	\$472,000	\$178,611
TOTAL	\$1,175,684	\$1,346,690	\$171,007	\$472,000	\$178,611
Months of Cash (general fund)		2.58			
Current					
Key Assets & Liabilities	Balance on 7/31/2025	Balance end of Prior Month	Balance 4/30/2026	Monthly Incr/(Decr)	YTD Incr/(Decr)
Cash (incl. Endowment)	\$1,175,684	\$1,298,501	\$1,346,690	\$48,189	\$171,007
Investments (Vanguard)	\$325,358	\$341,086	\$365,202	\$24,116	\$39,844
Current Liabilities	\$23,229	\$15,045	\$15,729	\$684	(\$7,500)
Mortgage Balance	\$536,716	\$477,951	\$470,632	(\$7,319)	(\$66,084)
-Mortgage to be paid off fall of 2030-					
Current Liabilities Detail					
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
FSA/VLI/Vis/Cob/PFML	\$9	\$1,201	\$915	(\$286)	
Prepaid Income	\$23,220	\$13,844	\$14,814	\$970	
TOTAL	\$23,229	\$15,045	\$15,729		