

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Voting Council Members present	Bill Bjorum, John Hodler, Kirsten Parker, Tina Swanson, Jill Longnecker, Pastor Peter Weston Miller
Non-voting Council Members present	Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman
Absent	Shane Brockshus
Guests	Noah Schumacher, Stewardship Lead

Location: In-person at Trinity Lutheran Church, office conference room

I. Call to Order – *John called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.*

II. Prayers – Pastor Jen

III. Dwelling in the Word Devotions – Sarah

IV. Consent Agenda (Tina/Bill/Passed)

- Approval – Monday, August 19, 2025, Council meeting minutes
- Approval – September 15, 2025, Meeting Agenda

V. Stewardship Plans – Noah Schumacher

- October 5, 12, 19 – Stewardship Sundays
- Send your Stewardship story to Noah for Trinity Today, people love personal stories and connect stories with giving. Topics include “why do you give?” and various ways of giving (time, talents, treasure), also “what are you grateful for?”

VI. Pastoral updates

- Pastor Jen report & Book study recommendations
- Pastor Peter report

VII. Financials

- Administrator – Sarah Kinsman
 - Joint Finance Team/Council FY 2025-2026 Budget meeting (not needed)
 - Approval of FY26 Budget **(Bill/Kirsten/Passed)**
 - Discuss future capital campaign strategy and timing for mortgage payoff
- Treasurer – Jill Longnecker

VIII. Unfinished Business

- Transition team selection process
 - Working session for Council to review applications on September 29, 6:00 pm
 - Discussion about providing average hours/week guidance for participation
- Security Task Force end date and final report expected in December
 - Video doorbell installed today
 - Additional facilities changes and upgrades to be completed by October
- Approval – Trinity Fundraising policy and Project/Fundraising form approval (to be communicated by posting on Trinity website) **(John/Jill/Approved)**

IX. New Business

- Annual meeting – Sunday, November 16 (Budget forum scheduled for November 9)
- Ratification of non-mandated Constitution revisions, second Congregation mtg.
- Approval – 2025 Churchwide mandated & non-mandated Constitution revisions
- Council member terms – recap located: Teams > Council Roster and Terms

X. Shout Outs, Gratitude moments, etc.

XI. Closing Prayer

XII. Adjournment (Bill/Jill/Passed)

The Council meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M. by President John Hodler

Signed by: *Kirsten Parker, Congregational Council Secretary*