

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2026

Voting Council members present: John Hodler, Bill Bjorum, Bryan Barts, Pastor Kristine Stedje, Pastor Jen Hackbarth, Mike Karlsrud, Shane Brockshus

Non-voting Council member present: Parish Administrator Sarah Kinsman

Absent: Kirsten Parker

Guest: Jenn Swenson

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church office conference room

Meeting was called to order at 6:25 PM by President John Hodler

Pastor Kristine opened with a prayer.

I. Consent Agenda – M/S/P:

- Approval of July 20, 2026, Council meeting minutes, and
- Approval of August 17, 2026, Council meeting agenda

II. Lead Pastor Call committee update from Jenn Swenson, Chair of Trinity Call Committee,

- We have an excellent committee! They have been active and meeting regularly.
- First-round interviews of the current pool of candidates will take place in August.
- Second-round interviews will follow in person, as appropriate.
- Pending progress with candidates, information will be shared with the congregation as candidate interviews dictate timelines.
- Council expressed their gratitude for the important work the team is doing for Trinity.

III. Pastoral, administrative and financial updates were reviewed and accepted, per reports previously submitted to the Council.

- *Note that proposed 2026-2027 budget was discussed in detail during a joint meeting with members of Trinity's Finance Committee prior to this Council meeting.*
- Council discussed the recent elimination of the Children Family Coordinator position, next steps and expectations, including the role of the Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation in leadership of youth programming.
- Budget – With some minor revisions to proposed budget coming out of the preceding working session, Council consensus is to support moving forward in planning with said budget in mind (budget will be submitted for congregational approval at the November annual meeting).

IV. Unfinished business

- **EV charging project**

Council reviewed the EV Charging project objectives developed during the 8/12/26 Executive Committee meeting. The objective is: create an EV Charger installation and operation plan that utilizes an EV Charging company's package (EVSP) of software, warranties, maintenance, and management of all post implementation operations. The EVSP agreement shall eliminate all of Trinity's responsibility for EV Charger installation costs, and eliminates Trinity staff's post installation operation management time, operational costs, and mitigates Trinity's liabilities.

The Council accepted the Executive Committee's recommendation to clarify the EV project's deliverables for the EV Charging project team and took the following actions to document the project's deliverables.

- M/S/P to rescind the March 17, 2025, motion relating to the approval of an EV charging station in the south parking lot, project fundraising, and charging fees.
- M/S/P to approve the following motion:
 - Move to install an EV charging station in the post office parking lot after Trinity's Council has approved the EV charging project team's updated, detailed installation and operation plan that utilizes an EV Charging company package (EVSP) including hardware, integrated software, warranties, maintenance, and a management agreement for the charging station's operation. The plan shall eliminate all Trinity's responsibility for costs and management of all components of the EV charging project's installation and the EV charging station post installation operations. The plan shall minimize Trinity's liabilities, and church staff's support for the EV charger's operation. A separate electric meter will be installed to serve the charging station. Fundraising is conducted at the discretion of the EV charging project team.
- This motion and its intent will be communicated to the EV Charger Project Team's leadership.

- **Council representation at upcoming events**

- Trinity Fest – Sept. 13, 11:00-12:00; Bill, John, Shane & Mike (as available) will represent Council at our table.
- Adult Forum – Sept. 20, 10:00-11:00; Jeopardy game will involve Council members, led by Kirsten.
- Annual congregational meeting – Nov. 22, 11:00; Council will host by serving coffee and treats.

V. New Business

- John Hodler introduced the concept of "The 10 Commandments for Congregational Councils" for consideration and work at the next Council meeting, on Monday, September 21, 2026

Pastor Jen led us in closing with the Lord's Prayer.

M/S/P to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shane Brockshus
Council Secretary