

Council Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2025

ATTENDANCE: S. Bear, A. Fonk, M. Hylinski, D. Larsen, P. Mason, Pastor J. Miller-Stubbendick, K. Richter, A. Schroeder, L. Woller; Pastor D. Hartfield, S. Raszkiewicz, L. Zanin

ABSENT: H. DeFranco

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Markie Lana
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for July 17, 2025:** – Agenda approved; P. Mason made a motion to approve agenda; S. Bear seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes June 19, 2025** – Meeting minutes approved with the correction of adding L. Zanin's name to the nominating committee list, and remove Lana. P. Mason made a motion to approve; L. Zanin seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer's report: June 2025** – See attached. As of June 30, the church ended \$7,672.65 in the positive. This marks the second consecutive year without dipping into reserves. The surplus was largely due to reduced staffing costs. Discussion included budget overruns, dedicated accounts, and creative accounting practices. A follow-up summary will be shared at the annual meeting.
6. **President's report:**
7. **Pastor's Reports**
 - a. Pastor Jordan – See attached
 - b. Pastor Debbie – See attached
8. **Old Business**
 - a. Travel Policy update – Guidelines established for upcoming trip. Follow-up meeting scheduled August 6 to debrief and formalize documentation.
 - b. Annual Meeting – Agenda finalized. No vote needed for nominations unless bios are submitted from the floor.
 - c. Building use – Pew crevices to be vacuumed before Sunday. Boiler certification underway. Light bulb above pew noted as out; work order to be submitted. Fans need cleaning; lift is operational. Foster care signs on property raised questions about signage permissions and liability. Parking lot safety discussed; Council encourage welcoming engagement over restriction.
 - d. 150th Anniversary - Historical Booklet/Video – no updates
 - e. Fall Leadership Conf Sep 29-Oct01 – no updates
 - f. Adventures in Renewal Lab July 24th
9. **New Business**
 - a. Installation – Pastors Jordan and Debbie to be installed July 20. Rev. Afi Dobbins-Maze will officiate. Special roles assigned to Gretchen, Leslie, and Kevin.
 - b. Guest Preacher Aug 23/24 – Mikah Meyer. Canyon Chorus Video – Mikah will present his short film *Canyon Chorus* and speak on inclusion and belonging. His message ties into Luke 13:10–17. He will host a post-service gathering featuring materials from his Outdoor Safe Space initiative. Council discussed outreach to Kenosha Pride and other community groups to promote the event.

10. Committee Report/Motions

Committee	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	• Included in annual meeting.	None

Caring Ministries	P. Debbie	• No updates	None
Church in Society	Patti	• Did not meet	None
Education—> Faith Formation	Lana	• Name change confirmed	None
Finance	Keith	• Covered in Treasurer's report	None
Friendly Center	Lisa	• Fall gathering Sept. 24; board meeting in August.	None
I. Technology	Sandy	• Monitor placement options discussed	None
Nominating	Dana	• Bios required for nominations from floor	None
Personnel	Andy	• No updates	None
Property	Keith	• Cleaning updates, signage concerns, lighting issues	None
Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	• Food & ice cream planned for installation/ annual meeting	None
Stewardship	Stephanie	• No updates	None
WMA	Markie	• Saturday night worship debrief scheduled for August 3rd	None
Youth	Adam	• Mission trip departs July 27; VBS follows; 24 youth attending.	None

12. **Council Connection concerns: July —> Markie:** Concerns raised about roped-off pews near soundboard. Council agreed to remove ropes from east side to improve accessibility. Work orders encouraged for maintenance issues.

13. **Parking Lot items**

- a. Appreciation Event
- b. Church Renewal
- c. Get to know SMLC Member – Spirit Article/Testimony
 - Who's who in the pew.
 - Skills, business, etc.
- d. Document Policy updates:
 - Memorial Giving (Finance):
 - SMLC Constitution and By-laws (Executive):
 - Emergency Closure (Executive)

14. **Calendar**

- a. Aug Spirit Deadline: July 23, 2025
- b. Stewardship Message: July Education
- c. Stewardship Message:
- d. Next Council Meeting: Aug 21, 2025
- e. July 20: Pastors Jordan and Debbie Installation
- f. July 27: Youth leave on mission trip
- g. July 27: Annual Meeting

15. **Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer:** Markie

16. **Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

2024-2025 Council Connection schedule

Aug' 24	Keith Richter
Sep' 24	Andy Schroeder
Oct' 24	Patricia Mason
Nov' 24	Stephanie Raszkiewicz
Dec' 24	Lisa Zanin
Jan' 25	Lana Woller
Feb' 25	Adam Fonk
Mar' 25	Hollie DeFranco
Apr' 25	Dana Larsen
May' 25	Patricia Mason
Jun' 25	Sandy Bear
Jul' 25	Markie Hylinski

2025 Ministry of the Month/Temple Talk Schedule

May' 25	Nominating
Jun' 25	CIS
Jul' 25	Education
Aug' 25	Youth
Sep' 25	WELCA/Property
Oct' 25	WMA
Nov' 25	Care Ministry
Dec' 25	Endowment
Jan' 26	Personnel
Feb' 26	Finance/Stewardship
Mar' 26	Friendly Center
Apr' 26	Nominating

June 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - June 30, 2025

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	18,121.83
June Income	40,878.77
June Expenses	(51,327.95)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>7,672.65</u>

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserve Beginning Balance	5,718.98
-Receipts - Fiscal Year-End Gain 20%	1,534.53
-Disbursements	0.00
Operating Reserve Ending Balance	<u>7,253.51</u>

Long-Term Reserve Beginning Balance	59,525.09
-Receipts - Fiscal Year-End Gain 60%	4,603.59
-Disbursement -	0.00
Long-Term Reserve Ending Balance	<u>64,128.68</u>

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	4,085.05
-Receipts - Fiscal Year-End Gain 20%	1,534.53
-Disbursements	0.00
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	<u>5,619.58</u>

Investment Accounts Beginning Balance	123,641.57
-Receipts -	0.00
Investment Accounts Ending Balance	<u>123,641.57</u>

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	<u>100,763.77</u>
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Total Fund Balances	<u><u>301,407.11</u></u>
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	28,484.04
Money Market Account	25,224.72
Accounts Receivable	875.00
Prepaid Insurance	68.00
Investment Accounts	248,284.58

Total Current Assets	<u><u>302,936.34</u></u>
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Difference	<u><u>1,529.23</u></u>
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Accounts Payable	-1529.23
	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

Mortgage Balance	<u><u>289,446.12</u></u>
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Pastor's Report
July 16, 2025
Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick
St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

On July 12, I attended Kenosha Pride to represent the Kenosha ELCA congregations who are Reconciling in Christ.

I officiated at the wedding of Kaelan Aker and Kyra Lucchetta on June 21, and the funeral of Jennifer Staccato on July 12. I continue to make pastoral care visits in people's homes and facilities, as well as offering support to members who stop by my office.

Pastors and lay leaders from the Kenosha ELCA congregations who want to plan a joint worship service around holiday weekends will meet on July 29 at St. Mary's.

Carthage College history professor Dr. Stephanie Mitchell has asked me to facilitate an event on August 9 that will bring together organizations in Kenosha and Racine that serve immigrants in the community.

I am in conversation with Mikah Meyer, who has traveled to all 400-plus National Park sites and has made a short documentary about growing up as a gay Lutheran pastor's kid. Mikah has offered to show his documentary/preach at St. Mary's on the weekend of August 23 and 24.

Looking ahead:

- Karen Larsen funeral on July 19
- Installation on July 20 with Pastor Afi Dobbins-Mays of the Greater Milwaukee Synod preaching
- From July 28-31, I will be leading the Wild Bible Adventures portion of Vacation Bible School
- I will be out of town August 16-19:
Pastor Chip Lutz of Lord of Life will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. His number is 262-925-3820.

Congregation Council Meeting, June 19, 2025

Pastor Debbie Report (6/20/25 → 7/15/25)

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation member visits
 - Hospital
 - Home
 - Rehabilitation Center
 - Phone
- Pastor Jordan, Keith Richter and I met multiple times to talk about reimagining my call and area of ministry focus. We agreed to refocus my ministry with faith formation being the priority. Going forward, Pastor Jordan and I will work together in supporting pastoral care needs, with Pastor Jordan taking the lead. I look forward to this change in my ministry focus very much.
- I have completed an initial listing of multiple faith formation focus areas for the coming year and will be seeking feedback from multiple congregational leaders.
- As lay-led Saturday worship continues, I will be offering possible reflection or devotional resources, when available, to the lay leader to use (or not). A reflection resource on Luke 10:25-37, was provided for the July 12th service (*Into the Mess and other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*, by Debi Thomas).
- I have spent time putting together a couple of rituals. One will be used as part of a committal service, and another will be offered as part of our return to fall ministry programming.
- Effort has been put into connecting with Nadia Bolz-Weber to determine if she is willing and able to come to Kenosha. Stay tuned!
- Administration/Meetings/Conference
 - Child/Youth Safety Policy Meetings, June 23rd & June 25th
 - Pastor Jordan & Pastor Debbie 1:1 – June 24th, July 10th
 - Annual Pastor Report completed, July 8th
 - Monthly Pastor's Report to Council completed, July 15th
- Looking Ahead
 - Exec Committee & Council meetings, July 17th
 - Installation service with Pr. Afi, Assistant to the Bishop preaching, July 20th

- St. Mary's Lutheran Annual meeting, July 27th
- Joint Kenosha ELCA holiday organization meeting, July 29th
- Saturday worship check-in, August 2nd
- Mission Trip-Child/Youth Safety - Lessons learned meeting, August 6th
- Preach/preside, August 9th
- Exec. Committee meeting, August 13th

Meeting Minutes submitted by:



Hollie DeFranco

Congregation Council Secretary