

Council Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2025

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

ABSENT: Pastor D. Hartfield, S. Raszkiewicz, L. Zanin

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:31 PM.
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Sandy
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for June 19, 2025:** – Agenda approved; S. Bear made a motion to approve with the addition of adding youth policies as first topic under old business for M. Fonk to discuss; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**
 - a. **May 15, 2025 Council Meeting** – Meeting minutes approved. A. Schroeder made a motion to approve; D. Larsen seconded. All in favor.
 - b. **June 01, 2025 – Special Congregation Meeting – Pastor Calls** – Meeting minutes approved. L. Woller made a motion to approve; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer's report: May 2025** – See attached
6. **President's report:** Thanked everyone who helped with the special congregation meeting. The next step is the installation of both Pastors, waiting to hear on Synod's availability.
7. **Pastor's Reports**
 - a. Pastor Jordan – See attached
 - b. Pastor Debbie – See attached
8. **Old Business**
 - a. **Youth Policies** – discussion occurred, a separate meeting will be held between A. Fonk, M. Fonk, K. Richter and Pastor J. Miller-Stubbendick to make edits to the policies and an email vote will occur after the documentation edits are finalized.
 - b. Synod Assembly May 30-31 Brookfield Conference Center: Pastor Jordan provided details of the meeting.
 - c. Annual Meeting — Reports due to Beth by July 9th.
 - d. Building use — Nothing to report.
 - e. 150th Anniversary - Historical Booklet/Video — no updates
9. **New Business**
 - a. Greater Milwaukee Synod Fall Leadership Conf Sep 29 - Oct 01 — Keith passed around a pamphlet on this.
 - b. Adventures in Renewal Lab July 24th
 - c. St Mary's Endowment Foundation 2025-2026 — notify Council the individuals up for renewal are John B., Neil G., and Kay M. Will be voted on during the Annual Meeting.

10. Committee Report/Motions

Committee	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	• Up to date.	• None
Caring Ministries	P. Debbie	• See her report	

Church in Society	Patti	- CUSH celebrating 25 years, - Christmas in July-taking donations again this year (personal care items and diapers are needed). - Starting June 28/29, will be handing out Bible verse cards	None
Education	Lana	No updates	None
Finance	Keith	The main change since last month's discussion, Kenosha welcome center was removed. The recommendation was to support the ELCJHL instead.	L. Woller made a motion to accept the 25/26 MMRP and present to the congregation during the annual meeting; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
Friendly Center	Lisa	No updates	None
I. Technology	Sandy	Had a contractor come in to look at the sanctuary about the TV monitors...stated that an electrician should come in to look first and provided recos on the size of the monitors that would be best.	None
Nominating	Dana	Nomination letters out, 3 declined, 1 had an issue with membership. L. Woller, P. Mason and A. Beer will be voted on.	None
Personnel	Andy	No updates	None
Property	Keith	The dishwasher will be fixed, it is the control panel that needs replacing and the cost will be less than anticipated.	None
Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	Coffee and kringle will be served before the annual meeting	None
Stewardship	Stephanie	No updates	None
WMA	Markie	- The Bishop came to the last meeting. - Looking for a new contemporary service leader (Bjorn retiring at the end of the year). An idea was mentioned to reach out to Carthage to see if anyone is interested/an internship.	None
Youth	Adam	See attached report	Policies

12. Council Connection concerns: June -> Sandy

13. Parking Lot items

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

- Emergency Closure (Executive)

14. Calendar

- June Spirit Deadline: June 23, 2025
- Stewardship Message: June CSI
- Stewardship Message: July Education
- Next Council Meeting: June 19, 2025
- July 09: Annual Meeting reports due to Beth**
- July 20: Kingfish Game**
- July 27: Annual Meeting

15. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer: Sandy

16. Adjournment — 8:27 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

May 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2025

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	23,344.48
May Income	34,883.04
May Expenses	(40,105.69)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>18,121.83</u>

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserve Beginning Balance	5,718.98
-Receipts -	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Operating Reserve Ending Balance	<u>5,718.98</u>

Long-Term Reserve Beginning Balance	59,525.09
-Receipts -	0.00
-Disbursement -	0.00
Long-Term Reserve Ending Balance	<u>59,525.09</u>

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	4,085.05
-Receipts -	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	<u>4,085.05</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>115,959.57</u>
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Total Fund Balances	<u><u>308,930.26</u></u>
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	23,369.04
Money Market Account	35,209.97
Prepaid Insurance	2,066.67
Investment Accounts	248,284.58

Total Current Assets	<u><u>308,930.26</u></u>
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Difference	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
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Mortgage Balance	<u><u>292,672.08</u></u>
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Pastor's Report

June 19, 2025
Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick
St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

- At the June Kenosha ELCA pastors and council presidents meeting, we discussed joining together with other Kenosha ELCA churches to have a combined worship service (Memorial Day weekend, the weekend closest to July 4, Labor Day weekend, Thanksgiving weekend, and Christmas Day).
- We would have a combined worship service for all Kenosha ELCA congregations who want to participate. Details can be worked out. Spirit Alive and Trinity/Lakeside are interested in joining with St. Mary's and I've emailed their pastors to see how they want to proceed.
- On Thursday, June 5, Bishop Paul Erickson of the Greater Milwaukee Synod met with our Worship, Music, and Arts team to discuss communion without a pastor present during our Saturday night worship services. The bishop listened respectfully and engaged in conversation with those who wished to speak. Ultimately, he told us that an ordained pastor needs to be present in order for the congregation to receive communion. Here is a snapshot of the bishop's reasoning:
 - We have accepted that we are going to do communion in a certain way in the ELCA
 - A pastor has gone through preparation, vetted, examination and has been ordained—set apart for a unique ministry
 - Presiding at the eucharist is part of this ministry
 - An ordained pastor, the elements of bread and wine, Jesus, and people—all need to be present at the same time for communion
 - In order for the meal to be properly administered, an ordained pastor needs to be present
 - We try to make sure the mysteries and gifts of Christ are respected by having an ordained minister preside at the table
 - Bishop Erickson has promised to abide by principles and guidelines of the ELCA
 - He doesn't have the freedom to abandon them
 - Regarding bringing the eucharist to the homebound:
because people can't get to the meal, we bring it to them
- At the June staff meeting, the idea came up to have a **"serve our church day"**, where people can sign up to work on various areas of the church, including the kitchen, sanctuary, sacristy exterior, and basement (we can organize and bring unneeded items to donate or throw away). Those present at the staff meeting would like to have this day in August or September, so the Sunday school kids could be part of this. Kendra Richter is willing to be in charge of this, and plans to bring the idea up to the property committee.
- I will be out of town the afternoon of Sunday, June 29 through Sunday, July 6. Pastor Cindy Aasen of St. Paul's will cover for me in the case of pastoral emergency in June. Her cell number is 262-237-9148, and at night her home phone is 262-654-6353.
- I will also be out of town Saturday, August 16 through Tuesday, August 19. Pastor Chip Lutz of Lord of Life will cover for me in the case of pastoral emergency in August. His number is 262-925-3820.

Congregation Council Meeting, June 19, 2025

Pastor Debbie Report (5/16/25 → 6/19/25)

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation member visits
 - Hospital
 - Hospice
 - Home
 - Residential Care Facility
 - Phone
- My 2-year term call as part-time Associate Pastor ended April 22nd. A special congregation meeting, held June 1st, resulted in a “permanent” call as part-time Associate Pastor. This meeting also resulted in a full-time lead pastor call for Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, who has been the Transition Pastor since January 6th, 2025. Yah!!!
- Helped lead worship - Confirmation Sunday - May 18th
- I facilitated a lay-led/assisting minister organizing meeting on May 28th. This meeting was designed to identify worship leadership needs for lay-led Saturday worship. After considering multiple liturgy/worship options, the group decided to start with a familiar liturgy using Mary Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer* and consider other options in the future including:
 1. Marty Haugen’s *Now the Feast and Celebration*
 2. Evening Prayer/Vespers (ELW #309)
 3. Dwelling in the Word
 4. Lectio DivinaAdditional equipping of lay leaders will be needed before options beyond *Holden Evening Prayer* are considered.
- Helped lead worship and preside at member funeral - June 3, 2025
- Preach/preside - June 14th/15th (Feast Day of the Holy Trinity)
- June 17th was my 2-year ordination anniversary! Hard to believe 2 years have gone by! Giving thanks to God and to St. Mary’s for our life and ministry together!
- I attended *Deconstructing Racism* training given by the Greater Milwaukee Synod and hosted by Galilee Lutheran Church in Pewaukee on May 17th. This training is open to all people, not just rostered people within the Synod and I highly recommend it! The design, content and facilitators were excellent!

- The Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly was held May 30th and May 31st at the Brookfield Conference Center in Brookfield, Wisconsin with the theme of “*Compassion: Spirit, Open out Hearts.*” Highlights of the Synod Assembly include:
 - Keynote Speaker – Rev. Khader El-Yateem, Executive Director of the Service and Justice Unit of the ELCA churchwide organization, who spoke with deep passion and conviction concerning current affairs in the Holy Land and the call to end the genocide that is happening in Gaza. ~\$6500 offering was collected during evening worship that will be given to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.
 - Announcement of the hiring of a new Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission, the Rev. Becky Erb, who will begin her work in the synod office August 4th.
 - Evening worship together with Tyra Dennis as our contemporary worship leader, along with many youth who served as lectors, worship band members, communion assistants, and assisting minister(s).
 - Election of new Synod Council members including a new Vice President, Dr. Rose Dotson.
Steve Hartfield ended his term as a Synod Council member.
 - 4 resolutions and 2 memorials were passed.
The 4 resolutions include:
 - Recreated the Welcome GMS Welcome Statement
 - Partnership with SUMUD: For Justice in Palestine and Israel
 - In Support of Efforts to Hold the Fossil Fuel Industry Accountable
 - To Thank Congregations

The 2 memorials that were passed and will be brought to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August include:

 - Memorial Supporting Addressing the Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools in the United States
 - Memorial Requesting that the ELCA Evaluate and Update the Call Process
- I was on call for Pastor Jordan during her continuing education time in Nebraska. June 13th → June 19th.
- I facilitated a discussion/reflection of the meeting with Bishop Erickson, with those who worship on Saturday, after worship on June 14th, regarding lay-led worship and Holy Communion. The outcome of the meeting with Bishop Erickson, concerning Holy Communion, is that Holy Communion can only be offered when an ordained pastor or a synodically authorized minister is presiding. The outcome of the meeting, along with a worship schedule update, was included in the June 14th announcement sheet.
 - Saturday worship will remain at 4pm.
 - There will be a pastor on the schedule for a minimum of 2x/month and worship will include Holy Communion.

- When no pastor is on the schedule, worship will be lay-led following *Holden Evening Prayer* or *Now is the Feast of Celebration*.
- There will be no Holy Communion during lay-led worship.
- Lay-led worship will begin June 7th and will continue indefinitely.

- Administration/Meetings/Conference
 - GMS Deconstructing Racism (Introductory Anti-racism training), May 17th
 - 1:1 with Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Kristen Nielsen, May 22nd
 - Confidentiality Refresher meeting prep with Pr. Jordan & Nurse Sue, May 27th
 - Saturday lay-led worship meeting with Assisting Ministers, May 28th
 - Pastor Jordan & Pastor Debbie 1:1 – May 29th, June 9th
 - GMS Assembly, May 30th and May 31st
 - Kenosha ELCA Pastor/Council President meeting, June 2nd
 - Confidentiality Refresher training for staff, office volunteers and Council, June 3rd
 - Staff Meeting, June 3rd
 - WMA meeting with Bishop Erickson, Thursday, June 5th
 - Follow up meeting with Saturday worshippers re: meeting with Bishop Erickson, June 14th
 - Monthly Pastor's Report to Council completed, June 17th
 - Congregation Council meeting, Thursday, June 19th

- Looking Ahead
 - Together with the Synod, determine date of installation for Pr. Jordan and me
 - Discussions on reimaging my call meeting with Pr. Jordan, June 24th
 - Preach/preside August 9th

Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2025

MOTIONS TO BRING TO COUNCIL:

HIGHLIGHTS/TOPICS FOR COUNCIL GUIDANCE:

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Fonk, Adam Fonk, Kendra Richter, Joan Oehlberg, Kristi Tysdal, Lara Rader, Stephanie Raszkievicz

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Call to order: 6:30pm
- Opening Prayer/Devotion: **Michelle**
- Approval of Youth Education Committee Agenda for 6/10/25 **Approved**
- Approval of Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes from 5/6/25 **Approved**
- Treasurer's report:
Old Business
 - Administrative
 - o Safe Child/Transportation Policy: will be voted on 6/19/25
 - Fish/Fusion
 - o Car wash went great
 - o Senior Sunday was very nice
 - o End of Year Bowling went well, but will not do it on a Sunday again.
 - o Bake off during last FISH was a big hit, great way to involve other members as judges
- Sunday School:
 - Greeters: will restart September
 - Soup Kitchen: need help for July 6
 - VBS
 - o Room reservations will be done this week
 - o Kendra sent out a reminder to youth to volunteer
 - o Supplies are ready to order and Joan is considering creating a wish list for the congregation to contribute
- **New Business**
 - Administrative
 - FISH/FUSION
 - o Kendra wants to start a "Serve Your Church" day where members sign up to help clean various parts of the church and grounds. The team suggests before Labor Day.

- Sunday School
 - o Rooms for VBS suggested: Big Bear room, Chapel Lounge, 3W, parking lot, gym and kitchen

Next meeting July 8th, 2025 at 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:15pm

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Lara Rader

Meeting Minutes submitted by:



Hollie DeFranco

Congregation Council Secretary