



Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025

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

ABSENT: S. Raszkievicz, D. Larsen

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:35 PM.
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Dana Keith
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for April 10, 2025:** – Agenda approved; L. Woller made a motion to approve; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from Feb 20, 2025 (No meeting held in March):** – Meeting minutes approved. A. Schroeder made a motion to approve; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer's report: Mar 2025** – See attached
6. **President's report:** No updates
7. **Pastor's Reports**
 - a. Pastor Jordan – First baptism, first funeral, new member, spent a fun Saturday with First Communion students, and attended WMA meeting. People are coming with Pastoral care. Meetings with Keith and Pastor Debbie about Saturday night services. Keeping in touch with staff. Planning Holy Week. Will be on vacation the week after Easter. Pastor Jordan and Pastor Adam to go to Nebraska in June to talk about Palestine. Details to come.
 - b. Pastor Debbie – See attached
8. **Renewal Video:**
 - Video 1 – How things have changed
 - Video 2 – A different way to be church
 - Video 3 – Listening to God
 - Video 4 – Really Listening and Looking for God's Activity
 - Video 5 – Listening to the Neighborhood Part 1 – Awareness
 - Video 6 - Listening to the Neighborhood Part 2: God's Activity
 - Video 7 - Planning Experiments and Searching for Lydia
9. **Old Business**
 - a. Call Committee: Given 2 names and are discerning them.
 - b. 150th Anniversary - Historical Booklet/Video No updates. Will come up after summer.
 - c. Leadership Retreat: Keith, Stephanie and Pastor Jordan to meet and debrief.
 - d. Building use: AARP will be doing taxes for one more week this year, scrapbooking group will use the gym again in 2026. A local new church would like to use the church for their services on Saturdays. Keith to meet with their pastor on Monday (April 14th) afternoon.
 - e. Sign: The sign is up and running! It is also a learning experience!

- f. Synod Assembly May 30-31 Brookfield Conference Center: Have until April 30th to get the early discount. Keith has not heard from anyone that would like to attend yet.
- g. Member Shout Outs update – Stephanie submitted 2 to Beth for the next Spirit. Any questions about this or have a Shout Out, please reach out to Stephanie.
- h. Appreciation Event: Will look more into doing this in the Fall and focus on what to do for this event.
- i. Lenten Services: Has been very educational and appropriate for Lent.
- j. Palestine Event: A great success and lead in, to the Lenten series.

10. New Business

- a. Pastor Debbie's call: Pastor Debbie's call is up on April 22nd. When Pastor Debbie's call started, we thought we would have a new Pastor by now. Pastor Debbie has to discern her ministry future and SMLC needs to discern our future. A temp solution – hire Pastor Debbie as contract pastor for 6 months which can be longer or shorter if needed. Other option: Extend a permanent call would require a special congregational meeting, another term call, or part ways. Keith asked for a motion to extend a 6 month contract to Pastor Debbie to continue her services and not cause disruption. **L. Woller** made a motion to extend a 6 month contract to Pastor Debbie; **P. Mason** seconded. All in favor.

11. Committee Report/Motions

Committee	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	No updates	
Caring Ministries	P. Debbie	See Pastor Debbie's highlights	
Church in Society	Patti	- Had their meeting today. Kenosha Welcome Center had a pizza fundraiser today. - Fair Trade Commission will have Palestine Olive Oil. Christmas in July Bible Cards for people.	
Education	Lana	No updates	
Finance	Keith	2024-25 MMRP budgeted \$5K for Grace Welcome Center year under partner ministries. Due to our neutral stance, we suspended this obligation. Finance has asked that we split this money to the 3 other partner ministries in the MMRP proportionately. - Keith requested a motion. P. Mason made a motion; S. Bear seconded. All in favor.	Money ELCA Outreach center, Lutherdale Bible Camp, Lutheran Social Services
Friendly Center	Lisa	See attached.	
I. Technology	Sandy	- Meeting held in March. - Still trying to get monitors for Fellowship Hall. - Did budget for 2 computers this year.	

Nominating	Dana	No updates	
Personnel	Andy	No updates	
Property	Keith	- Big thank you to Dave Frost for coordinating installation of the sign and the donor for the sign. \$6486 needed still to cover the sign. Keith requested a motion to take \$6486 from the general account to pay the remaining balance of the sign. P. Mason made a motion, L. Zanin seconded. All in favor. 2 bids requested for cleaning of the cushions of the pews and altar; \$1405 & \$1154 from RK (also includes west entrance, the library and the chapel lounge). Keith asking for a motion to approve RK's bid (this would come out of Property's budget. S. Bear made a motion, P. Mason seconded. All in favor. - Property also looking at fixing the dishwasher.	- The difference for the sign. - Bid for carpet and pew cleaning.
Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	WELCA Tea Event May 3rd.	
Stewardship	Stephanie	- Temple talk schedule assigned and passed around. - The time and talent and pledge cards turned in. 26 new people turned them in from last year. - Think about year-round Stewardship, do we need to do Time and Talent and Pledge cards every year.	

WMA	Markie	- Met on Tuesday. Deb will lead adult choir for the rest of the program year. May 18th, 10 piece brass from St. Paul's will be playing 3-4 songs. - Wonderful handbell festival a few weeks ago (Mount Pleasant Lutheran, St Paul's and our own Jubilate) - On March 8th, Pastor Jordan and Keith met with the Saturday night service parishioners. Very informational and they showed a passion for the Saturday night service. Different ideas have been discussed on how to continue with Saturday night service. On May 3rd, will have another discussion about possible solutions.	
Youth	Adam	See attached.	

12. Council Connection concerns: March/April No Concerns brought forth.

13. Parking Lot items

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

14. Calendar

- a. April Spirit Deadline: April 23, 2025
- b. Stewardship Message: TBD
- c. Next Council Meeting: May 15, 2025
- d. April 13: Palm Sunday (Palm Sunday Breakfast)
- e. April 17: Maundy Thursday
- f. April 18: Good Friday
- g. April 20: Easter Sunday
- h. May 03: WELCA Tea Event
- i. May 18: Confirmation
- j. July 27: Annual Meeting

15. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer: Dana—Hollie

16. Adjournment — 8:30 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 Weller
Feb' 25	Adam Fonk
Mar' 25	Hollie DeFrance
Apr' 25	Dana Larsen
May' 25	Patricia Mason
Jun' 25	Sandy Bear
Jul' 25	Markie Hylinski

2025 Temple Talk Schedule – On Hold

March 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	30,058.64
March Income	41,564.05
March Expenses - Deduct reissued LandMaintenance voided checks	(41,104.53)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>30,518.16</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	123,615.13
-Receipts	0.00
Investment Accounts Ending Balance	<u>123,615.13</u>

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	<u>150,115.01</u>
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Total Fund Balances	<u><u>343,059.26</u></u>
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	34,158.91
Money Market Account	60,642.21
Prepaid Insurance	0.00
Investment Accounts	248,258.14

Total Current Assets	<u><u>343,059.26</u></u>
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Difference	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
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Mortgage Balance	<u><u>299,097.08</u></u>
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Congregation Council Meeting April 10, 2025

Pastor Debbie Report (2/17/25 – 4/6/25)

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation visits
 - Hospital
 - Home
 - Rehab
 - Hospice
 - Phone
- Preach /preside February 22/23 & April 5/6
- Ash Wednesday worship participation, March 5th
- The Sunday morning book study small group suspended reading *Having the Mind of Christ* by Ben Sternke & Matt Tebbe, until such time Dick Sjordsma can rejoin the group. In its place I am facilitating a Lenten book study using Kathy Escobar's book, *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power*. This book study has generated much needed and appreciated dialogue among participants. The group decided we will continue the book study beyond Lent and Easter.
- The GMS Inspired for Mission – Adventures in Renewal video series - video #5, "Listening to the Neighborhood, Part 1 – Awareness" was shown at the last Council meeting, Jan. 16th, 2025. Video #6, "Listening to the Neighborhood, Part 2 – God's Activity" will be shown at the next Council meeting scheduled for February 20th, 2025. The final video, video #7, "Planning Experiments and Searching for Lydia" was not viewed at the March Council meeting because the meeting did not take place - This might be rescheduled for April 10th.
- My two-year term call is coming to an end, April 22nd. I/we had originally thought the end of my term call was June 12th, which is the date of my ordination, but turns out the clock started when I started working at St. Mary's which was on April 22nd, and not on my ordination date, which was about 7 weeks after I started at St. Mary's.

Conversations with the Greater Milwaukee Synod office (Bishop Erickson and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Kristin), along with Keith Richter and Pastor Jordan have taken place. A proposal will be brought to the Congregation Council April 10th.

- Administration/Meetings/Conference
 - SML Staff meeting February 25th
 - Kenosha ELCA Pastors/Council Presidents meeting, February 25th
 - Meeting with Pastor Jordan and Nurse Sue, February 25th
 - GMS Conference zoom meeting, February 27th
 - 1:1 meeting with Pr. Jordan, March 3rd, March 19th
 - 1:1 meeting concerning Grace People's Pantry and Kenosha Welcome Center, March 4th & March 7th
 - ELCA Advocacy meeting on risks to Medicaid. March 6th

- Greater Milwaukee Synod meeting with Pr. Kristin re: Term Call, March 6th
- SML Leadership Retreat, March 8th
- Saturday night worship discussion/feedback w/Pr. Jordan and Keith Richter, March 8th
- Exec. Meeting, March 12th
- Meeting w/Pr. Jordan & Keith Richter, March 26th
- Installation of Reverend Adam Miller-Stubbendick, March 27th
- Monthly Pastor's Report to Council completed, April 6th
- Looking Ahead
 - Vacation week of April 6th
Holy Week - participation in Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services
 - Need to redefine the preaching schedule pending outcome of 2-year term call discussions
 - Finalize the next steps concerning the end of my 2-year term call
 - Continued facilitation of the Sunday small group book study using Escobar's book
 - May 17th - Deconstructing Racism (Introductory Anti-racism training), required per GMS

The Friendly Center Meeting Minutes

Date: March 26th, 2025

MOTIONS TO BRING TO COUNCIL: None

HIGHLIGHTS/TOPICS FOR COUNCIL GUIDANCE:

48 people attended the Friendly Center gathering on March 26th. Devotions were written and led by Faith as there was not a pastor able to come to FC during Lent. The devotion had been written by Pope Francis during his recent hospitalization. Members enjoyed a variety of soup, rolls, muffins and fruit fluff as well as hoho cake prepared by Gretchen Rasch and Christine Johnson. The program was given by librarian, Patty Bajabir about searching for one's ancestry. Even though Patty is not a genealogist, she has access to many library resources for those wanting to search their lineage.

ATTENDANCE: Lisa, Bob, Sue, Faith, Rod and Sandy

ABSENT: Carlene, Jan

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Call to order:
2. Opening Prayer/Devotion:
3. Approval of [**Ministry Name**] Agenda for [**date**] –
4. Approval of [**Ministry Name**] Meeting Minutes from [**date**] –
5. Treasurer's report (**if applicable**):
6. Old Business
 - a. Topic 1: Today's gathering went well. (Even though Olga was present, she was not able to connect the computer to the projector.) Shout out to Gretchen, Christine for their help preparing food and to Todd Wollar for help with the dishes after the meal. And to Olga for trying even possible way to make the connection work.
 - b. Topic 2: It had been decided previously and reiterated that FC was willing to donate \$1,000 toward the repairing/replacing of the broken components of the dishwasher if St. Mary's will match those funds.
 - c. Topic 3: May will be our final event of the spring. We will not meet in June, July or August.
7. New Business
 - a. Topic 1:
8. Parking Lot items (**if applicable**):
 - a. Topic 1: Sandy will inquire with different people for a devotional leader for May.
 - b. Topic 2: Bob or Faith will inquire about having the Kenosha Police department talk about scams that are problems for seniors and how seniors can keep themselves safe.
 - c. Topic 3:
9. Upcoming Calendar of Events:

There are two events remaining for FC before breaking for the summer.

 - a. Event 1: April 30th Pastors Jordan and Adam will present both the devotions and about their recent experiences in Palestine. We will ask the specific name of their talk to place in the newsletter

and the Spirit. The meal will be chicken pot pies, jello with fruit, cupcakes and Gretchen will help with the meal. Donations will be collected for Luther's Lunchbox of Carthage College.

b. Event 2: May 28th Devotional leader has not been determined yet. The meal will be a picnic style lunch of brats, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and ice cream bars for dessert. The Kenosha Police Department will present a program about staying safe if you are approached by a scam artist.

10. **Closing Prayer:**

11. **Adjournment:** —

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Lisa Zanin

Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8, 2025

MOTIONS TO BRING TO COUNCIL:

HIGHLIGHTS/TOPICS FOR COUNCIL GUIDANCE:

ATTENDANCE:

Michelle Fonk, Adam Fonk, Kendra Richter, Joan Oehlberg, Kristi Tysdal, Lara Rader, Mindy Eltoft, Sarah Salmon, Stephanie Raszkievicz, Megan Kueker

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Call to order: 6:35p
- Opening Prayer/Devotion: **Michelle**
- Approval of Youth Education Committee Agenda for 4/8/25 **Approved**
- Approval of Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes from 3/11/25 **Approved**
- Treasurer's report: Joan has more receipts. Joan will go through Mindy and then costs are submitted to Beth. Endowment monies go to the dedicated account. Michelle will send Joan the budget breakdown to see how we decided the budget for the year. Michelle will meet with Joan to go over the line items.

Old Business

- Administrative
 - Safe Child/Transportation Policy: coming along, waiting for the sub committee to go through. It has gone through personnel for edits.
- Fish/Fusion
 - Summer Mission trip sub committee: meeting tonight
 - Wednesday soup suppers: fabulous success! already made \$1000
 - Good Friday: gonna be great!
 - Palm Sunday: ready to go, need more help setting up
 - Fundraising: still looking at dates
- Sunday School:
 - First Communion: went well, kids enjoyed it
 - Greeters: last month will be May and will restart September
 - Soup Kitchen: still need help for May, Michelle will send out another reminder to all youth
 - VBS: hoping to advertise in Easter eggs or at the hunt and create a QR code for registering. There should be a form in the drive that we can use to attach to the code. Foundation deadline is May 15th for requesting funds. Stephanie will forward Joan the detailed letter for what will be needed and how much. We can use the digital sign to advertise.

New Business

- Administrative
- FISH/FUSION
 - Mission Trip: not as much from
 - Confirmation May 18th: 8 kids, using choir robes and Stephanie will make flowers.
 - Kendra will check sizes during small group.
 - Senior Sunday is June 8th during the service: Kendra will do a blessing and a small gift. Kendra would like to make an arrangement with info about their future plans: talk with Kris about using the case in the hallway.
 - End of Year bowling will be FISH and Fusion: Kendra will poll kids for

- Sunday School

- King of Kings Movie outing: three tickets available for Sunday, Keukers will join
- Easter Egg hunt: Michelle ordered all the stuff. The eggs will get stuffed at Good Friday practice.

Next meeting May 6th, 2025 at 6:30pm

Adjournment: 7:20pm

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Lara Rader