

Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE: S. Bear, A. Beer, D. Larsen, P. Mason, Pastor J. Miller-Stubbendick, S. Raszkievicz, K. Richter, A. Schroeder, L.Zanin, C. Hayes & K. Manderfeld (guests)

ABSENT: H. DeFranco, M. Hylinski, Pastor D. Hartfield

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:35PM.
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Andy
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for September 18, 2025:** P. Mason made a motion to approve the agenda with the change to move “9d Food on the 1st Red Bags to 5 and move all topics down one; A. Beer seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes August 21, 2025:** A. Beer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with a correction under new business “election of 2025-2026 office” to state the recommendation of the executive council came as a recommendation from the 24-25 executive committee; L. Zanin seconded. All in favor.
5. **Food on the 1st Red Bags** –C. Hayes and K. Manderfeld came to discuss situation the Red Bags going back to Kenosha Welcome Center.
6. **Treasurer’s report: August 2025** – See attached
7. **President’s report:** Attended the first President’s/Pastors meeting hosted by Spirit Alive which was very informative. Also attended the WMA meeting on the 9th and stated that would be the last one attended as Markie is the liaison. Attended the September executive meeting and then the installation of church council members on the 14th.
8. **Pastor’s Reports**
 - a. Pastor Jordan – See attached.
 - b. Pastor Debbie – See attached.
9. **Old Business**
 - a. Travel Policy update – A. Beer would like to attend the next youth sub-committee meeting to ask a few questions, have a dialogue and then come back to have Council vote on it.
 - b. Liaison Assignments – Committee meeting minutes to come to the secretary prior to Council Meeting.
 - c. Building use – Tax people are coming again in February-April 2026. Polling will be back
 - d. 150th Anniversary Historical Booklet/Video –No Updates
 - e. Fall Leadership Conf Sep 29-Oct 01 – No Updates
 - f. Scout Troop Chartered Representative – No Updates
10. **New Business**
 - a. Ministries Temple Talks – discussion occurred and it was stated that these temple talks are important and the need to have a template for the for these. More discussion with stewardship committee to occur and bring back to Council Meeting.
 - b. Reinstate the Good Samaritan Sunday – Will occur once a quarter (will be communicated in the Spirit and 2 week prior in the bulletin):

1. October 25/26, 2025
 2. February 14/15, 2026
 3. May 9/10, 2026
 4. July 2026 (Annual Meeting Date TBD)
- c. Adventures in Renewal Next Steps – GMS Adventures in Renewal reps from Co-Lab (Pastor Danette Braun, Sonja Wolfe, and Pastor Andy Fetters) will visit the October 16 Council Meeting.
- d. Food on the 1st Red Bags- D. Larsen made a motion to transfer the red bags from food on the First from Shalom Center to Kenosha Welcome Center, seconded by A. Beer. All in favor. A. Schroeder will contact S. Hartfield to notify Shalom Center and C. Hayes to notify Kenosha Welcome Center.

11. Ministry Report/Motions

Ministry	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sondra's last day is 9/26 and committee trying to decide on when to get the quarter done while she is still here. 	None
Caring Ministries	P. Debbie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	None
Church in Society	Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached 	None
Education—> Faith Formation	Andrea, P. Debbie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea to meet with Pastor Debbie now that Dick is back and to get more individuals on the committee. 	None
Finance	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not meet 	None
Friendly Center	Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the first event since summer on the 24th. 	None
I. Technology	Andrea, Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to get something scheduled as there have been technology questions from the office. 	None
Nominating	Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	None
Personnel	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews have been conducted on Sondra's position and an offer has been made to a candidate. 	None
Property	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	None

Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tickets on sale for Oktoberfest (September 27) Keith made recommendation that Council would host a Kringle mingle once a quarter. Hollie to discuss with Chris. Andrea mentioned that we need to look at insurance policy and selling of alcohol during Oktoberfest. 	None
Stewardship	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	None
WMA	Markie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During their meeting motion made to temporarily discontinue Contemporary Service after November until a leader steps up to drive it etc. Communication to Congregation is needed (the Spirit, Bulletin) 	None
Youth	Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will meet in October, did not meet in September due to school starting, Rally day and busy schedules. Rally day was a big success 	None

12. Council Connection concerns: August – Andy – was asked for clarification on who to send meeting minutes (Hollie and Beth).

PARKING LOT		
Topic	Date Entered	Notes/Updates
Volunteer/Staff Appreciation	19 Jun 2025	
Collecting Information on members' businesses and skills	14 Dec 2023	
Getting to Know a St Mary's Member	14 Dec 2023	
Church Service Analysis Update		
Protecting Places of Worship	16 Nov 2023	
Ministry Role and Responsibilities		
Church Renewal	21 Aug 2025	

14. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- a. ELCA Outreach Center Night of Worship: **September 21**
- b. October Spirit Deadline: **September 23**
- c. Outreach for Hope Bike/Run/Walk (Andy and Ralph): **September 27**
- d. Mikah Meyer at Carthage Siebert Chapel: **October 1 @ 7PM**
- e. Blessing of the Animals: **October 4**
- f. Next Council Meeting: **October 16**

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

16. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

2025-2026 Council Connection Schedule		2025 Ministry of the Month/Temple Talk Schedule	
August 2025	Keith	May 2025	Nominating
September 2025	Andy	June 2025	CIS
October 2025	Hollie	July 2025	Education-Faith Formation
November 2025	Patti	August 2025	Youth
December 2025	Lisa	September 2025	WELCA/Property
January 2026	Sandy	October 2025	WMA
February 2026	Andrea	November 2025	Care Ministry
March 2026	Sandy	December 2025	Endowment
April 2026	Stephanie	January 2026	Personnel
May 2026	Patti	February 2026	Finance/Stewardship
June 2026	Markie	March 2026	Friendly Center
July 2026	Dana	April 2026	Nominating

August 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	(15,214.20)
August Income	49,287.28
August Expenses	<u>(45,218.28)</u>
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>(11,145.20)</u>

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserve Beginning Balance	7,253.51
-Receipts -Undesignated memorials 20%	2,350.00
-Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Operating Reserve Ending Balance	<u>9,603.51</u>

Long-Term Reserve Beginning Balance	64,128.68
-Receipts -Undesignated memorials 60%	7,050.00
-Disbursement -	<u>0.00</u>
Long-Term Reserve Ending Balance	<u>71,178.68</u>

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	5,619.58
-Receipts -Undesignated memorials 20%	2,350.00
-Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	<u>7,969.58</u>

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

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	<u>80,748.92</u>
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Total Fund Balances	<u><u>293,142.26</u></u>
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	9,158.77
Money Market Account	80,344.08
Prepaid Insurance	0.00
Investment Accounts	203,641.57

Total Current Assets	<u><u>293,144.42</u></u>
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Difference	<u><u>2.16</u></u>
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Other Withholdings due to timing	<u>-2.16</u>
	<u>0.00</u>

Mortgage Balance	<u><u>282,967.17</u></u>
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Pastor's Report
Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

Thursday, September 18, 2025
St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Pet blessing:

Plans are well underway for the pet blessing at St. Mary's. It will be held on Saturday, October 4 at 10 am in the east parking lot, and is open to all! It will include a brief worship service with music, prayers, and a pet blessing. Dog and cat treats will be provided, along with information about St. Mary's.

-Who can attend the blessing to help me?

Saturday night worship update:

On October 11, Now the Feast and Celebration will be used as the liturgy. I have been in contact with our musicians, assisting ministers, and cantors to make sure we are all on the same page, with the plan going forward being to create a rotating schedule of liturgies to be used about once a month, including Holden Evening Prayer, Now the Feast and Celebration, and Evening Prayer/Vespers from the ELW hymnal.

Good Samaritan Sundays will be re-started:

At last week's executive committee meeting, the decision was made to revive Good Samaritan Sundays each quarter, so the people of St. Mary's have a consistent and streamlined way to support the ministry that is facilitated by the Good Samaritan Fund.

The schedule for the next year will be as follows:

October 25/26, 2025: Reformation Sunday, with Nurse Sue offering a temple talk about how the Good Samaritan Fund facilitates her ministry in the congregation and community.

February 14/15, 2026: Good Samaritan Sunday—right before Lent

May 9/10, 2026: Good Samaritan Sunday

July date TBD, 2026: in conjunction with annual meeting

CUSH gala:

The CUSH 25th anniversary gala is coming up on Thursday, October 23 at 5:30 pm. The executive director is hoping that all founding member congregations can fill at least one table. Ticket prices are currently \$50/ticket or \$400/table of 8. Ticket prices will probably go up at the beginning of October.

Office closed on holiday Fridays:

In conversation with the executive committee and the chair of the personnel committee, the decision has been made that the church office will be closed on Friday, November 28 (the day after Thanksgiving), Friday, December 26 (the day after Christmas), and Friday, January 2, 2026 (the day after New Year's Day).

Pastoral acts:

I officiated two funerals on September 6, for John Rohde and Bea Bringsosen.

I will officiate two weddings in the coming month: one on September 20 for Sydney Anderson and William Berger, and one on October 18 for Nick Verzal and Alexandra Torres.

WMA recap:

November contemporary service will be the last one

plan is to thank and celebrate the leaders and musicians of the contemporary service after

Pastor Debbie Report

Congregation Council Meeting, 9/18/25
(8/22/25 → 9/17/25)

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation member visits
 - Hospital
 - Phone
- I led a *Ritual of Return* for Dick Sjoerdsma on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:15pm (before choir practice) to acknowledge the death of his wife, Mary, and the transition that has affected Dick and all the people in the ministries Dick is most involved. I want to extend a special “thank you” to Andy Schroeder, Jenny Workman and Julie Schmidt and Deb Black for helping lead this ritual.
- Unfortunately, Nadia Bolz-Weber had to cancel her engagement that was scheduled to take place November 7th at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. Many at St. Mary’s had secured tickets to attend but will now need to wait for her next tour!
- Danette Braun and/or Sonja Wolfe and/or Pr. Andy Fetters have accepted the invitation to attend the October 16th Council meeting to have a discussion on what our next steps might be to engage in the *Adventures in Renewal* provided through the Greater Milwaukee Synod. As shared last month, seven SML members (Stephanie, Dave and Alex Raszkievicz, Patty Mason, Andy Schroeder, Andrea Beer and I) travelled to South Milwaukee on Thursday, July 24th to participate in a Greater Milwaukee Synod Adventures in Renewal Co-Lab experience at the South Milwaukee farmer’s market. This experience was a great way to meet new people, experience what God is up to in the world and practice *Dwelling in the Word*.
- The Exec Committee has identified dates, one per quarter, to collect special offerings that will be designated for the Good Samaritan Fund. Information will be shared with the congregation to ensure all are aware of the need and the dates for these special offerings. The following weekends have been defined as *Good Samaritan Weekends* – October 25th/26th 2025, February 14th/15th 2026, May 9th/10th 2026, and the weekend in July that we hold our Annual Congregation meeting.
- I helped lead the welcoming of new members on Rally Day, Sunday, September 7th. We welcome Debbie Taylor, Sue Drake and the Miller-Stubbendick family (Pastors Jordan & Adam, Julian and Ari)!
- *Voices of Advent: The Bible’s Insights for a Season of Hope*, author - Rev. Dr. Matthew Skinner, has been selected as our book study during Advent. Facilitated sessions will take place on the first four Mondays in December (Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd). Details of registration, times and locations will be communicated in the coming weeks.
- Administration/Meetings/Conference

- Pastor Jordan & Pastor Debbie 1:1 – September 8th
- Kenosha ELCA Clergy & Council Presidents – September 8th
- WMA, Tuesday, September 9th
- Executive Committee, September 10th
- Monthly Pastor's Report to Council completed, September 17th
- Looking Ahead
 - Preach/preside, September 20th/21st
 - ELCA Outreach Center Night of Worship, September 21st
 - SML Staff meeting, Tuesday, September 23rd
 - Inspired for Mission - Artificial Intelligence & the Church, (GMS & Ryan Panzer) or LSTC President's Circle (conflicting times), Tues, Sept. 23rd
 - WMA, Tuesday, October 7th
 - Executive Committee, Wednesday, October 8th
 - Council, Thursday, October 16th (Guests to provide info on *Adventures in Renewal*)
 - CUSH Gala –25th anniversary, Thursday, October 23rd

Church in Society Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2025

Members present: Anne Winkle, Inez Lemnus, Margaret VanBoven, Kathy Neururer

Meeting of Church in Society began at 1:00.

Devotions were led by Inez Lemnus. Devotions for the next meeting on October 9, 2025 will be led by Steve Hartfield.

Minutes from the August 14, 2025 CIS meeting were read and approved.

Financial Report: Budget #6201 \$300. Dedicated Account #3243 \$68.09
Fair Trade Coffee Fund #3208 \$736.68

Old Business

No recent report on the Afghan refugees. Please keep them and other refugees and immigrants in your prayers with the attitude of hate going on in our country.

New Business

Fair Trade Products: Saturday, September 20 – self serve, Sunday, September 21 – Anne, Inez and Margaret

Lutheran World Relief Blanket Sunday – Anne reported donation envelopes will be distributed on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28. Donations will be used for shipping costs. The cost to ship 1 kit is \$1.50 and 1 quilt \$2.80. Quilts will be placed in pews that weekend and Pastor Jordan will have a blessing of the quilts. Quilters will also be recognized.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride – Andy Schroeder and Ralph Tollas will be representing St. Mary's in the bike ride. Donations can be made to Outreach for Hope in their honor.

Shalom Center, Kenosha Welcome Center – no report at this time.

CUSH – A “25 Year Celebration Banquet” for CUSH will be held on Thursday, October 23 at The Vault located downtown. CIS will provide a basket of Fair Trade products for the silent auction. Pastor Jordan will make a dessert for this event. Tickets are \$50. each and can be purchased online or by check. Grant Pitt will be giving a temple talk at St. Mary's in the near future.

Bread for the World – is celebrating 50 years of collective impact for the hungry world wide. The 2025 goals are: Expanding the Child Tax Credit, Protecting What Works (SNAP) and Standing Up for Foreign Aid.

Breaking the Chains – no update yet about Christmas bags.

Other New Business – October 11, 2025, Violins of Hope will be presented by the Racine Symphony Orchestra at the First Presbyterian Church in Racine.

OktoberFest will be held at St. Mary's Lutheran on September 27, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall and gym. Cost for the meal and music is only \$12.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting will be held on October 9, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the library.

Kathy Neururer
CIS

First American Bank Motions Via Email

The following motions were made via email on September 20, 2025:

P. Mason moves to identify President Andrew Schroeder, Vice-President Keith Richter, and Treasurer Steven Hartfield as signatories to the St. Mary's Lutheran Church checking account and the St. Mary's Lutheran Church money market account with First American Bank. Motion seconded by **A. Beer**. Motion carried.

P. Mason moved that Adam Fonk and Julie Schmitt be removed as signatories to the St. Mary's Lutheran Church checking account and the St. Mary's Lutheran Church money market account with First American Bank. Motion seconded by **A. Beer**. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes submitted by:



Hollie DeFranco

Congregation Council Secretary