

**ATTENDANCE:** A. Beer, H. DeFranco, M. Hylinski, D. Larsen, P. Mason, Pastor D. Hartfield, Pastor J. Miller-Stubbendick, S. Raszkievicz, K. Richter, A. Schroeder, L. Zanin

**ABSENT:** S. Bear

## Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:32 PM
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Patti
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for Nov. 20, 2025:** D. Larsen made a motion to approve the agenda; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes Oct. 16, 2025:** A. Beer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
6. **Treasurer's report:** – See Attached October 2025 Report
7. **President's report:** – Council to host Kringle Mingle once a quarter starting in 2026, proposal for the weekend after Council meeting and get confirmation on who would be able to help. February, May, August, November
8. **Pastor's Reports**
  - a. **Pastor Jordan** – See Attached – Passed a checklist on what to do if ICE Agents Arrive at Our Place of Worship. Request that Council look at the checklist. Find out if other Kenosha ELCA churches/Pastors have a plan, schools etc. No need to reinvent the wheel. Will discuss findings at the December Executive Meeting. (4) one hour Mondays in Advent, **Virtual Advent Tour of the Holy Land** – \$130.88 for the Congregation to view. Email to congregation members with the Zoom information.
  - b. **Pastor Debbie** – See Attached
9. **Old Business**
  - A. Adventures in Renewal Next Steps – Will wait until the beginning of the year to determine if this is still something we would like to do. Intersects with Stewardship. Can rewatch the videos, as they are posted on the Synod's website. Need to get a Saturday scheduled for a leadership retreat where we can discuss this. Council to make a decision if we want to proceed forward with this. We need to find a team **first**. Time commitment will be a question that arises when asking people if they would be interested in being on this team, as well as the characteristics defined for those that would be best suited for this team. What do we have to lose? Nothing. We as a Council should be comfortable answering questions and at this point in time we are not. Council should read Pastor Debbie's report and the October meeting minutes, come with names and regroup.
  - B. Temple Talk/Ministry of the Month – The exception is each ministry will speak one weekend a month.
  - C. Building use – First weekend in February until tax time, AARP will be in on Tuesdays and there will be elections and Kids Castle will be here.
  - D. Leadership Conference – Stephanie to send out an email with a poll on potential dates in January/February.
10. **New Business**
  - A. Emergency Procedure During Worship – Pastor Jordan was approached over the weekend on what is the protocol on an Active Shooter. There was a training a few years back. Need to update roles and responsibilities etc. Keith to look through his files.
  - B. Listening Loop for Hearing Impaired – There are elderly people in the congregation that have hearing impairments and would like to know what is being done to assist those. It is expensive for Loop and is outdated, and there are newer technologies out there that work better with hearing aids. The IT group is looking into these.
  - C. Night of Worship December 7 – SMLC hosting, soup at 5pm and service is at 6pm. No sermon, there will be readings and prayers.

D. Website Review – need to put in place, security reasons, make sure that things are properly vetted before being posted. Pastor Debbie recommended that Council take a look at our website and come back with their thoughts/impressions.

## 11. Ministry Report/Motions

Ministry	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update</li> </ul>	None
Caring Ministries	P. Deb/ Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Christmas at St. Pauls, Surviving the Holidays, funds in the Good Samaritan Funds</li> </ul>	None
Church in Society	Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See attached report</li> </ul>	None
Education—> Faith Formation	Andrea/ P. Deb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advent Book Study starting after Thanksgiving.</li> </ul>	None
Finance	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did not meet</li> </ul>	None
Friendly Center	Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oct 29th event, played BINGO, 55 people attended and some were in costumes. November event has taken place on 19th, Chinese cuisine and entertainment. December 17th event at the Fireside.</li> </ul>	None
I. Technology	Andrea/ Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above about Hearing Loop and ministry is actively getting quotes for screens.</li> </ul>	None

Nominating	Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have not met</li> </ul>	None
Personnel	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting next Tuesday.</li> </ul>	None
Property	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Updates</li> </ul>	None
Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanksgiving Eve Pie after worship.</li> </ul>	None
Stewardship	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekend of Jan 10/11 Pastor Becky speaking about Annual Fund drive. <i>Equipping the Saints</i> to help the GMS</li> </ul>	None
WMA	Markie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request to use \$500 for new Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary.</li> </ul>	None
Youth	Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Attached Report</li> </ul>	None

12. Council Connection concerns: November. - [Patti](#)

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	<a href="#">Mentioned again in this meeting</a>
Ministry Role and Responsibilities		
Church Renewal	21 Aug 2025	

DOCUMENT UPDATES				
Title	Date Entered	Committee	Notes	Due Date
Emergency Closure		Executive		
Constitution/By-Laws Reformat/Rewrite		Executive		
Memorial Giving Policy		Finance		
Chapel Lounge Monitor Training/Guidance				
150th Anniversary Historical Booklet/Video	17 Nov 2025		Keith	30 June 2026

14. Save the Dates

- A. **November 23:** Spirit Deadline for December
- B. **November 26:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship 6pm/Pie After
- C. **December 05:** Drop & Shop
- D. **December 07:** Night of Worship
- E. **December** Stewardship Message: **Endowment**
- F. **December 09:** Endowment Christmas Party
- G. **December 14:** Children's Christmas Program
- H. **December 16:** Blue Christmas at St. Paul's 630pm
- I. **December 18:** Next Council Meeting
- J. **December 24:** Christmas Even Worship 5pm & 8pm
- K. **December 25:** Christmas Day Worship at Lakeside Lutheran Church 9am
- L. **December 9:** Endowment Christmas Party
- M. **January 3/4:** Youth Rummage drop-off

N. **January 11/12:** Youth Rummage Sale

O. **February 01:** Breaking the Chains 10 Year Anniversary

P. **February 14 & 15:** Good Samaritan Fund Weekend

Q. **May 09 & 10:** Good Samaritan Fund Weekend

R. **July 2026** (Annual Meeting Date TBD): Good Samaritan Fund Weekend

15. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer: [Patti](#)

16. Adjournment – [Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm](#)

2025-2026 Council Connections 2025-2026 Ministry of the Month Temple Talk								
<b>Aug 25</b>	Keith	<b>Feb 26</b>	Andrea		<b>Aug 25</b>	Youth	<b>Feb 26</b>	Finance/Stewardship
<b>Sept 25</b>	Andy	<b>March 26</b>	Andy		<b>Sept 25</b>	WELCA/Property	<b>March 26</b>	Friendly Center
<b>Oct 25</b>	Hollie	<b>April 26</b>	Stephanie		<b>Oct 25</b>	WMA	<b>April 26</b>	Nominating
<b>Nov 25</b>	<a href="#">Patti</a>	<b>May 26</b>	Markie		<b>Nov 25</b>	<a href="#">Care Ministry</a>	<b>May 26</b>	Nominating
<b>Dec 25</b>	<a href="#">Lisa</a>	<b>June 26</b>	Pattie		<b>Dec 25</b>	<a href="#">Endowment</a>	<b>June 26</b>	CIS
<b>Jan 26</b>	Sandy	<b>July 26</b>	Dana		<b>Jan 26</b>	Personnel	<b>July 26</b>	Education/Faith Formation

# October 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

**General Operating Fund**

Beginning Balance	(5,342.48)
October Income	43,826.30
October Expenses (added back voided chk 238.44 Trugreen)	(40,830.66)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>(2,346.84)</u>

**Dedicated Accounts**

Operating Reserve Beginning Balance	9,603.51
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Operating Reserve Ending Balance	<u>9,603.51</u>

Long-Term Reserve Beginning Balance	71,178.68
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Long-Term Reserve Ending Balance	<u>71,178.68</u>

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	7,969.58
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	<u>7,969.58</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>94,750.74</u>
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<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u><u>304,797.24</u></u>
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**Bank / Investment Account Balances**

Checking Account	32,698.60
Money Market Account	68,457.07
Investment Accounts	203,641.57

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u><u>304,797.24</u></u>
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<b>Difference</b>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
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	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<u><u>276,451.99</u></u>
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# Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

## Pastor's Report

November 20, 2025

St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

On November 5, I attended a day-long retreat on remaining grounded, authentic, and full of integrity while preaching in these chaotic times.

### **What to do if ICE would come to St. Mary's**

ACLU Wisconsin has information on what to do if ICE arrives at a place of worship.

Information may also be found on the Greater Milwaukee Synod website, under Advocacy Resources —> Immigration Resources —> Immigration Presentation by Tim Muth of the ACLU Wisconsin Foundation.

### **Thinking about building security**

- Recently, there have been several times where people not connected with St. Mary's have tried to enter the building.
- How can we balance our desire to be hospitable and welcoming, with the need to also be thoughtful and aware for the safety of all?
- Regarding key fobs: how many people need access to the building?  
When people/groups rent the building, they typically get a key fob the day before their event. Do we need to require some kind of deposit when a key fob is picked up?
- Also, what if the exterior door is programmed for a meeting or an event, and someone tries to come in the door?
- Some churches have a volunteer walk around the inside and outside of the church building on a daily—or at least frequent—basis. Is this something we want to do?

# Pastor Debbie Hartfield Report

## Pastor's Report (10/16/25 → 11/19/25)

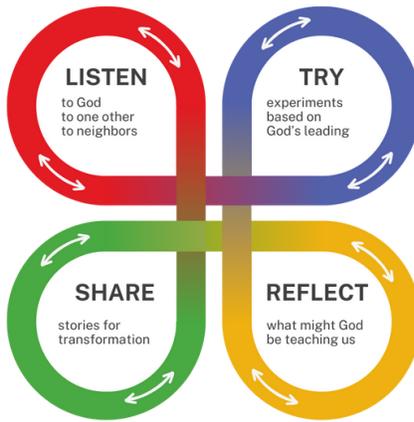
### Congregation Council Meeting, November 19, 2025

- Pastoral Activities
  - Congregation member pastoral care
    - Phone
    - email
  - Preach/preside October 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>
  
- The registration for the Advent book/bible study using *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope*, author - Rev. Dr. Matthew Skinner, ended November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 30 books have been ordered anticipating 30 participants. More than 30 people registered, so an additional order of books was made (n=8). We are hopeful that the books will arrive in time for folks to be prepared for the first sessions (Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. and Tues. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>). Due to only a couple of people registering for the Tuesday evening session, it has been canceled. Andrea Beer and I will facilitate the sessions per the schedule below.

#### Gathering schedule -- Two separate times are available each week.

Advent 1	Sun. Nov.30 <sup>th</sup> 10:15am Andrea Beer	Tues. Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1pm Pr. Debbie	The Voice of Jesus
Advent 2	Sun. Dec.7 <sup>th</sup> 10:15am Andrea Beer	Tues. Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> 1pm Pr. Debbie	The Voice of John the Baptist
Advent 3	Sun. Dec.14 <sup>th</sup> 10:15am Andrea Beer	Tues. Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> 1pm Pr. Debbie	Voices of Mary, Zechariah, & the Gospel of John
Advent 4	Sun. Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:15am Andrea Beer	Tues. Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1pm Pr. Debbie	Voices of Angels and Prophets

- Danette Braun and Sonja Wolfe came to our October 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and helped facilitate a discussion on what our next steps might be to engage in the *Adventures in Renewal* provided through the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Below is my summary of our time together.
  - Adventures in Renewal is a process, not a program. It is a process that draws us into deeper connections with God, one another, and our neighbors. It can be seen in the graphic below as a process that includes "Listen, Try, Share, Reflect."



- Believe there is somebody in the congregation ready to be part of this process.
- The leader needs to be somebody other than a pastor. The pastor serves as a spiritual guide, not the leader.
- Identify a leader. Talk to/invite others in the congregation to participate in the team
  - 4-8 people (plus pastor) would be a good team to initiate this process. It would be best if the people represented the diversity of the congregation. It would be best if the team members were invited to participate rather than asking for volunteers.
- When asked what the attributes of a team member might be, the following were recommended:
  - Be able to work with a team
  - Be curious
  - Be open to ambiguity
  - Be committed
  - Be open both the structure of the process as well as the need to be adaptable
  - Be patient – trust the process, transformation is incremental, is not easy and is not a straight path
  - Be able to give and receive grace
  - Demonstrated leadership ability in some other context
- The team (e.g., Mission Renewal Team, Faithful Innovation Team – whatever name the team comes up with) will go through the 7 videos available on the GMS website (Council did this beginning Fall 2024 through Spring 2025). After video #7, team plans an experiment.
- A coach is available through the synod office. There is a pool of about 12-15 coaches in the pool. The synod picks up the cost of the coach at a rate of \$50/hour + mileage. There is a selection/matching process between the team and coach that is identified
- There are more resources available regarding the process and team expectations available on the website.
- The Council was to reflect, pray and discern if and how St. Mary's might engage in this Adventures in Renewal process. To be discussed at the November Council meeting. Danette and Sonja encourage us to get back with them in January.

- Nurse Sue gave a temple talk on the Good Samaritan Fund the weekend of October 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>. We give thanks to God for the positive response resulting in ~\$1,100 and an additional matching \$1,000 from the Endowment Foundation providing a total of \$2,100 to the depleted Good Samaritan Fund. Thank you! The next quarterly special offering for the Good Samaritan Fund will be February 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> 2026, followed by May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> 2026 and the weekend in July that corresponds to our Annual Congregation meeting.
  
- **Administration/Meetings/Conference**
  - Pastor Jordan & Pastor Debbie 1:1 – October 28<sup>th</sup>
  - SML Staff meeting, Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Joint ELCA Kenosha Churches Meeting, November 4<sup>th</sup> (focus on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> worship)
  - Voyager’s “Differentiation of Self and Preaching in times Such as These” Conference – Siena Retreat Center in Racine (Refresher of Bowen Theory and Rabbi Freidman’s application to congregations and special conversation with Bishop Mariann Budde – Episcopal Diocese of Washington D.C.), November 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Region 5/GMS Gender Justice Boundary Education – Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls, November 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Executive Committee, November 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Region 5/GMS First Call Conference -Marathon, WI, November 16<sup>th</sup> →November 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Kenosha ELCA Pastor’s breakfast gathering, November 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Monthly Pastor’s Report to Council completed, November 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Council meeting, November 20<sup>th</sup>
  
- **Looking Ahead**
  - Vacation week of November 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Advent book/bible study, weekly in Advent beginning Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Front Desk Christmas gathering, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Meeting with Pr. Becky Erb, Assistant to the Bishop, December 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Surviving the Holidays with Nurse Sue, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Endowment Foundation Christmas gathering, December 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Exec. Committee, December 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Preach/preside, December 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> = children’s Christmas program –preside only)
  - Breaking the Chains Church, prison ministry gift packaging, December 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Identification of additional Adult Faith Formation team member, possibly from the Youth Committee, by December 31<sup>st</sup>

# Church in Society Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025

Members present: Margaret VanBoven, Ralph Tollas, Anne Winkle.

Meeting began at 1:00 pm in the church library.  
Devotions were led by Anne Winkle.

Minutes from October 9, 2025 were read and approved.

Financial report: Budget #6201: \$300.00 Dedicated acct. #3243: \$368.09  
Fair Trade Coffee fund #3208: \$470.68

## Old Business:

Afghan refugees — no current report. Again, keep them and all other refugees and immigrants in your prayers.

CUSH 25th Anniversary Banquet: St. Mary's was well represented with 11 people present and St. Mary's was honored as one of the sponsors of the banquet in the program. St. Mary's CIS also received a personal "Thank You" from CUSH Executive Director, Grant Pitts. The speaker, Mr. Darryl Morin was excellent.

## New Business:

Fair Trade Products:

- Sat., November 22 — self serve setup
- Sun., November 23 — volunteers are Margaret and Anne.
- Sat., December 20 — self serve sets
- Sun., December 21 — volunteer is Anne

- The cost for Fair Trade Chocolate bars has gone up. CIS will now be charging \$3.50/ per chocolate bar or 2 for \$6.00.
- The Hope Hub Warming Center of the Shalom Center has extended hours from 6 pm to 8: 30 am when there is inclement weather.
- Breaking the Chains Ministry Christmas gift bags will be assembled in St. Mary's fellowship hall on Monday, December 15th, 2025 at noon. Stamps will be used on the donated Christmas cards at the Kenosha facility.
- Breaking the Chains will be celebrating 10 years of Ministry with a dinner/fundraiser on February 1, 2026. The event will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church - 631 North 19th Street in Milwaukee. A tribute to Pastor Joe Ellwanger and Joyce Ellwanger will also be apart of the program. Monetary or other help is requested.
- Bread for the world — Prayers and support is being requested even though the government shutdown is over. Funds for food has not been released.
- Kenosha Welcome Center has seen a doubling in the number of clients. Correction from the agenda: A date for the trial of the lawsuit has not been set and Grace Lutheran Church has not officially closed.
- Ralph Tollas reported that the Outreach for Hope Bike ride received \$172,000.00 in donations.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm. Next CIS meeting will be held on February 12, 2026 at 1 pm in the library. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Anne Winkle  
CIS Chair

# Youth Education Committee Meeting Minutes

## November 11, 2025

- Call to Order: Joan Oehlberg, Michelle Fonk, Kendra Richter, Sandy Bear, Lara Rader
- Opening Prayer/Devotion: Kendra
- Approval of Meeting Agenda: approved
- Approval of October Meeting Minutes: should have approved Aug meeting min, approved
- Treasurer's Report: Michelle can sign off on purchases now; Joan and Kendra still need to meet with the new bookkeeper

### Old Business

- Administrative
  - Safe Child/Transportation: transportation was approved, but safe child is still on hold – Michelle has suggested to Stephanie R to wait to approve until a process for creating a policy can be made.
- FISH/Fusion
  - Halloween Party: next year separate groups, but went well
  - Rummage Sale: quilters have been contacted about this event
  - Winter Extreme: permission slips have gone out and Foundation letter is out
  - Summer Mission Trip: has not been decided but leaning toward PA
- Sunday School
  - Trunk or Treat: 75-100 people came through, not as much info gathered but QR code was also available to families. 3 new families have been contacted
  - Drop and Shop: Form and FB are in the works, Dec 5 5-8pm. Kendra suggested to advertise outside nursery for Sprouts. She will also ask youth who wants to volunteer.
  - Christmas Program: kids got their lines and have some older kids helping. Luna's family has agreed to help by being Mary and Joseph.
  - Lutherdale: Possibly 7 kids going!

### New Business

- Administrative: none
- FISH/Fusion
  - Bell Ringing: Festival on 80<sup>th</sup> November 24<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm
- Sunday School
  - Wednesday nights will be moved to 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month after Sunday School till 11a with service projects, food and an intergenerational component.
  - Homebound members Christmas cards: got 80 names from Sue Quever

Meeting adjourned 7:10p next meeting Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30pm

### Meeting Minutes submitted by:



Hollie DeFranco

Congregation Council Secretary

