

# Council Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2025

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

**ABSENT:** D. Larsen, K. Richter

## Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:32 PM
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Hollie
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for Oct 16, 2025:** A. Beer made a motion to approve the agenda; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes Sept 17, 2025:** P. Mason made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; S. Raszkievicz seconded. All in favor.
5. **Adventures in Renewal Lab - Danette Braun & Sonja Wolfe:** (conversation based on what we have seen in the videos).
  - Pastor Debbie: How do we know if a congregation is ready? It cannot be just another thing to do in a long list of things to do. This isn't about finding answers, it is about leading us down a path. What were some things that sparked interest in you?
  - Stephanie: how do we connect within the community. Lets grow into our community, instead of growing the congregation.
  - The emphasis on trying things (pastor Jordan). Inviting us to be curious. When asked how the congregation is, answer was in mourning, overwhelmed and tired...we want to engage but don't know how to. Music is really important here. We need renewal for sure, hope others can come to the same conclusion and have a joint effort. It is about relationships and building community beyond these walls. Missing the relationship part with the community. A great deal of history. The people at this church started the Shalom Center and grew to what it is today. Started with someone sharing food from the trunk of their car. Someone here started CUSH, a prison ministry. Danette validated all of this that has been shared. We have not done anything wrong.
  - There has been a lot of cultural shifts. How do we continue to be sources of Gods grace, mercy, love and forgiveness in a community that needs it. Communal spiritual transformation is needed. It is about our collective journey together. Willing to be honest about anchors of the past, ready to explore. We NEED community. The community within this congregation is needed as it is broken. Even though we are broken, we still want to do something to spark a light to someone else. This means that we are ready then. Danette and Sonja aren't here to lead, just wanting to do this is enough inspiration. Try not to overthink it. If we were to rewatch the videos with the coach we will see them in a new light. Don't put too much pressure on yourself, we are already changing. She is excited to see SMLC step into what we are meant to be. This is like choosing your own adventure. We have already started our adventure by watching these videos and reaching out. Being a church is relationships with each other and with God.
  - This would start with a small group. A committed and patient group that trusts the process. This is dynamic and looks a little different to each situation. This will be a **9-12** month process. This group will lead the congregation into some of the processes. The first **70%** of this process is listening and reflecting. Once we get a lot of practice then we can get curious about what is out in the community. A lot of retraining our ears and hearts. Transformation is never easy and a straight path. Little steps of incremental change. This is why it is important to have a coach. Keep being curious. Is there an optimal number of participants for this? **5-8** plus your coach because this is slow work, because you will lose **1-3** people in the first few months. Walk around and talk to the congregation about this and getting a diverse team together, people are curious, open to ambiguity, committed to the process, balance of structure but also adaptability, one foot outside the box people and open.
  - The pastor should be a spiritual guide not the leader of the team. What is learned by other congregations

Have patience and trust the process, most of the Time is learning to listen, little changes happen and lead to something bigger. This is life changing, this is **NOT** a marathon or a sprint. This is not a one way street or linear. This is a process, there isn't a date when this over. Give yourself Grace. Danette and Sonja ended with leaving us with this question: **How might God been challenging you or encouraging you through this conversation?** Discussed the next steps in the process. There are between 12-15 coaches. Team will meet roughly monthly, but it depends on the amount of fieldwork. Low cost low risk experiments. The Synod pays the coach's fees.

**6. Treasurer's report:** - See Attached September 2025 Report

**7. President's report:**

- The Endowment Fund will match \$1000 for Good Samaritan Fund.
- Council to sign up to host Kringle Mingle: Andy will send out an email.

**8. Pastor's Reports**

- a. Pastor Jordan - See Attached
- b. Pastor Debbie - See Attached

**9. Old Business**

- a. Travel Policy-Updated attached ready for action? Andrea provided updated language from Church Mutual documents. Great discussion around communication, that there is one person on each end. Provided more of a framework around this policy. *(Discussion occurred about what to do if church or church group is approached by ICE. To discuss at next Council Meeting)*. **A. Beer** made a motion to accept the updated policy, **S. Bear** seconded. All in favor.
- b. Building use - No updates
- c. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Historical Booklet/Video - No updates
- d. Fall Leadership Conf - No updates

**2. New Business**

- a. Travel Policy – See above in old Business
- b. Adventures in Renewal Lab next step – Will discuss at next council meeting.

**3. Ministry Report/Motions**

Ministry	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	• No Updates	None
Caring Ministries	P. Debbie	• Flu shots available last Sunday, several individuals received.	None
Church in Society	Patti	• See attached report	None
Education—> Faith Formation	Andrea/ P. Deb	• Advent book study will occur after Thanksgiving	None
Finance	Keith	• No updates	None
Friendly Center	Lisa	• Met on Sept 24th, 48 attended, down 2 cooks, called in Michelle Fonk to assist. • Oct 29th Costume Gathering, Bingo will be the program.	None
I. Technology	Andrea/ Keith	• Nov 5th committee will meet and discuss Fellowship Hall Project updates	None

Nominating	Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates</li> </ul>	None
Personnel	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Peet (new bookkeeper)</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>Oktoberfest was a success, about 160 people</li> </ul>	None
Stewardship	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates</li> </ul>	None
WMA	Markie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not doing intinction after Contemporary Service ceases. Will be a celebration to thank all who have participated in leading Contemporary.</li> </ul>	None
Youth	Sandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laborfest was successful. Plans to do it again next year. Trunk or Treat on October 26th.</li> <li>The nursery is now open during church service.</li> <li>Successful BINGO fundraiser last night</li> </ul>	None

12.Council Connection concerns: Oct. - [Hollie](#)- no concerns brought forth.

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	

## DOCUMENT UPDATES

<b>Memorial Giving Policy</b>		Finance		
<b>Chapel Lounge Monitor Training/Guidance</b>				

### 14. Save the Dates

- A. **October 23:** Spirit Deadline for November
- B. **October** Stewardship Message: Oct - WMA
- C. **October 25 & 26:** Good Samaritan Fund Weekend
- D. **October 25 & 26:** Reformation Weekend/Sunday
- E. **October 26:** Trunk or Treat
- F. **November** Stewardship Message: **Care Ministry**
- G. **November 9: Contemporary service members recognition**
- H. **November 20:** Next Council Meeting
- I. **December 9:** Endowment Christmas Party
- J. **February 1:** Breaking the Chains
- K. **February 14 & 15:** Good Samaritan Fund Weekend
- L. **May 9 & 10:** Good Samaritan Fund Weekend
- M. **July 2026** (Annual Meeting Date TBD): Good Samaritan Fund Weekend

### 14. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer: [Hollie](#)

### 15. Adjournment - 8:36 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>	<b>Hollie</b>	<b>April 26</b>	Stephanie		<b>Oct 25</b>	<b>WMA</b>	<b>April 26</b>	Nominating
<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>Patti</b>	<b>May 26</b>	Markie		<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>Care Ministry</b>	<b>May 26</b>	Nominating
<b>Dec 25</b>	Lisa	<b>June 26</b>	Pattie		<b>Dec 25</b>	Endowment	<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

## September 2025 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

**General Operating Fund**

Beginning Balance	(11,145.20)
September Income	44,566.29
September Expenses (added back voided chk 238.44 Trugreen)	<u>(38,763.57)</u>
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>(5,342.48)</u>

**Dedicated Accounts**

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

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

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	7,969.58
-Receipts	0.00
-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>88,240.73</u>
---	------------------

<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<u><u>300,634.07</u></u>
----------------------------	--------------------------

**Bank / Investment Account Balances**

Checking Account	20,593.31
Money Market Account	76,399.19
Investment Accounts	203,641.57

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u><u>300,634.07</u></u>
-----------------------------	--------------------------

<b>Difference</b>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>
-------------------	--------------------

0

0.00

<b>Mortgage Balance</b>	<u><u>279,714.12</u></u>
-------------------------	--------------------------

**Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick**  
**Pastor's Report**  
**October 16, 2025**  
**St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin**

The blessing of the animals service was well received, and a joy to lead! About 20-30 people attended with their pets.

I will be out of town from November 6-11. Pastor Wesley Isberner (they/them/theirs) will cover any pastoral emergencies. They can be reached at 262-612-3790.

It has been brought to my attention that on occasion, front desk volunteers will receive a phone call that is more suitable for a council member to answer. For example, one recent call was regarding communion and the Saturday night service. Going forward, we will put a sign on the front desk with the name and phone number of the council connection for the current month.

Council members don't necessarily have to know the answers to questions that may be asked, but they can listen and receive whatever is being expressed or asked, and then share the information as needed (i.e., with the rest of the council, with one of the pastors, etc.).

Thanksgiving Eve service:

I have been working with Pat Gallo and Lisa Zanin to modify some of the readings and prayers/meditations for the Thanksgiving Eve service. The service is in good shape, and Pat and Lisa are working to coordinate readers and music.

# Pastor Debbie Hartfield Report

## Pastor's Report (9/18/25 → 10/15/25)

### Congregation Council Meeting, October 16, 2025

- Pastoral Activities
  - Congregation member visits
    - Home
    - Phone
  - Preach/preside September 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>
  
- Participant books and DVD for facilitating the Advent book/bible study using *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights for a Season of Hope*, author - Rev. Dr. Matthew Skinner, have been ordered. Details of the gatherings have been defined (see table below). Communication of these sessions will take place through weekly announcements, *The Spirit*, website, and social media. Thanks to the front desk volunteers who will register those who are interested. Books will be provided. Andrea Beer and I will facilitate the sessions.

Gathering schedule -- Three 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	Tues. Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 6pm 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	Tues. Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> 6pm 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	Tues. Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> 6pm 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	Tues. Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6pm Pr. Debbie	Voices of Angels and Prophets

- Dick Sjoerdsma, Andrea Beer, and I came together October 1<sup>st</sup> and agreed to create a group that will collaborate and make decisions regarding our adult faith formation/education ministry. Pat Gallo joined the group as well! Kendra will be contacted to discuss the need for a young adult in this group. A proposed duty/charge of the group will be defined and brought to the Council for approval in 1Q 2026.
- Danette Braun and Sonja Wolfe accepted the invitation to attend the October 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Accommodation is set for an informative session, thanks to Andy and Keith!
- Members of St. Mary's represented about 30% of those who were at Lord of Life Lutheran Church for the ELCA Outreach Center Night of Worship. Another night of worship is being considered in the winter, though the tentative dates for this conflict with the Carthage Christmas Festival. The offerings collected during these worship services help fund the ministry provided by the ELCA Outreach Center. Funds are critically low at this point.
- The Good Samaritan Fund is at an extremely low-level causing, in some cases, the inability to provide resources for those in need. Nurse Sue will be giving a Temple Talk on October 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>. As shared last month, the Exec. Committee has decided on quarterly dates that will be designated as "Good Samaritan" Sundays when special offerings will be collected to help ensure adequate funds in the Good Samaritan Fund. As reported last month, the first quarterly date is Reformation weekend – October 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> followed by February 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> 2026, 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
  - SML Staff meeting, Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Pastor Jordan & Pastor Debbie 1:1 – September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - WMA, Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Executive Committee, October 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Monthly Pastor's Report to Council completed, October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - 2026 Proposed Preaching Schedule completed, September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Looking Ahead
  - Preach/preside, October 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>
  - Baptism of Santiago Botello, parents Mallory and Omar, October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - CUSH Gala –25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 1:1 with CUSH Executive Director Grant Pitts, October 24<sup>th</sup>

- Staff meeting, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Joint worship service meeting, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Voyager's Meeting - Differentiation of Self & Preaching, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Gender Justice Training – Greater Milwaukee Synod, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>
- WMA, Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Executive Committee, Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>
- First Call Conference, Greater Milwaukee Synod/Region 5, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> thru Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>
- Council, Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

## **Church in Society Meeting Minutes**

### **October 9, 2025**

Members Present: Steve Hartfield, Anne Winkle, Patti Mason, Margaret VanBoven, Ralph Tollas, Kathy Neururer

In addition, guests included Grant Pitt and Sharon Corso, both representing CUSH

Meeting began at 1:00 pm in the church library.

Devotions were led by Steve Hartfield. Steve also volunteered to do devotions for the month of November.

Minutes from September 11, 2025 were read and approved.

Financial Report: Budget # 6201 \$300. Dedicated Account # 3243 \$868.09

Fair Trade Coffee Fund #3208 \$736.68

### **Old Business**

Afghan refugees – no current report. Again, keep them and all other refugees and immigrants in your prayers at this difficult time. This includes 20+ people arrested by ICE in Manitowoc County and 1200 that have vanished from the camp in Florida.

Outreach for Hope Bike Ride – a thank you to Ralph Tollas and Andy Schroeder for representing St. Mary's in this event. Ralph reported there were more riders this year than last.

LWR – Anne reported 210 quilts and 22 personal care kits will be delivered to the semi at Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Donations from members of St. Mary's for the shipping of these items will be sent to LWR.

### **New Business**

Fair Trade Products :

Sat., October 18 – self serve set-up

Sun., October 19 - volunteers included Patti, Margaret and Anne

CUSH 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet – will be held October 23, 2025 at The Vault. Tickets are \$50.00. St. Mary's CIS is donating a basket of Fair Trade items valued at \$50. or more. Pastor Jordan is making a dessert to donate to the banquet.

CUSH sponsorship request – CIS discussed becoming a sponsor with funds in the dedicated account #3243. Steve made a motion to become a sponsor at the Bronze level, a donation of \$500. Margaret seconded the motion. Margaret also reminded the committee some of the funds were donated to CIS for the ELCA Outreach camp in the summertime. There is enough in the account to cover both. The motion passed unanimously. Grant also discussed some of the committees going on at CUSH and the role in the community.

Shalom Center – Steve reported it is the time of the Fall Appeal at Shalom with more people coming for meals. St. Mary's is serving dinner the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in each month. The Warming Center will be opening with colder weather and will be open 24 hours a day when the weather is below a certain temperature.

Volunteers are needed. One training session has been held and another will be held during the evening in the near future. The website is available to sign up.

Breaking the Chains Ministry – Steve reported gift bags will be assembled again this year and will let people know the date. It is possible we may not be able to use stamps, in which case we will use a postal machine.

Bread for the World – Prayers and support is being requested as the shutdown is effecting our most vulnerable people in this country and the world.

Kenosha Welcome Center – Food is being distributed

Eli Lilly Endowment has awarded a one million dollar grant to Awaken Dane Collaboration project. This will involve neighborhood networks.

No Kings 2 – will be held in Kenosha on Sat. October 18 from 1 to 4 to protest at the Civic Center Park to protest actions going on in our country.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm. Next CIS meeting will be held on November 13, 2025 at 1 pm in the library.  
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer..

Kathy Neururer  
CIS

# Worship, Music, and Arts Meeting Minutes

## October 7, 2025

### **Highlights/Topics for Council Guidance**

SEE -6a – Blessing sendoff for the contemporary service volunteers

### **Attendance**

Julie Schmit, Dick Sjoerdsma, Pastor Jordan, Pastor Debbie, Pat Gallo, Willy Mueller, Gretchen Rasch, Markie Hylinski (6:25)

### **Absent**

Bjorn Hanson, Deb Black, Rod Pfeiffer

### **Discussion Topics**

1. Call to order: 5:59
2. Opening prayer/Devotion: Prayer by Dick. Next meeting - Gretchen
3. Approval of WMA agenda For Oct.7 2025 -passed unanimously.
4. Approval of WMA Meeting Minutes of September 9,2025 – Passed unanimously.
5. Pastor's Reports: Pastor Jordan- 20-30 people came to the animal blessing. It was a beautiful day. Saturday night will start using "Now the Feast" until Advent. Pastor Becca will continue to preside for some Saturday night communions at a rate of \$50 nightly. Oct 19 there will be a baptism. We will also celebrate National Immigrant Day. Thanksgiving Eve service will be at 6:00 followed by pie. The format will be similar to last year. Willy will play. The contemporary worship team has volunteered to play as well. Pastor Jordan asked if we have had people sharing their Faith stories. She will be ordering a new robe. They are 10% off in October. Someone has come forward to pay for it.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - a. Contemporary service- We will be thanking all those who have helped with this service over the years with a blessing send off. Since we will have a supply pastor their last Sunday (November 9) Andy as President will be asked to read the sendoff. Pastor Jordan will write up the verbiage. What else should we do?
  - b. Julie will do a Temple Talk on October 18/19 and show a short video.
7. **New Business**
  - a. Christmas Eve services will be at 5 and 8. Adult choir will sing at 8 with several songs and other special music. We have candles for Silent Night. Perhaps, A Chord with the Lord could sing at 5:00.
  - b. Advent Season – Wreath will be up. Pastor Deb will be doing a book study on Dec,2,9,16 and 23. These are Tuesdays at 1:00 and 6:00.
  - c. There was discussion of projecting more on the back wall and printing less. We will be discussing this again in upcoming months. We need a new projector soon.

d. What is the role of WMA and What is the role of the Pastors? It is felt the Collaboration is what we are doing and should do.

e. St Paul's Brass has volunteered to play at several services. Dick will ask them to play on the first Sunday in Advent -November 4, and January 11.

f. Intinction – Dick made a motion as a general rule to avoid the practice of Intinction. Willy seconded this. Motion passed.

g. Dick brought up that perhaps the choir would sing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday and leave the first Sunday for the Bells. It is up to Dick's discretion. Dick also noted that the ushers are still getting up the congregation before The Lamb of God is done.

8. **Parking Lot Items-** We will discuss a Sing -A- Long in November.

**9. Calendar of Events**

- a. Reformation Sunday, October 25/26- wear red.
- b. All Saints, November 1,2
- c. Christ the King November 23/24.
- d. Thanksgiving Eve Nov. 26, 6:00 pm. Pie to follow.

10. Closing prayer- Dick

11. Adjournment: 6:55

Next meeting is November 18 at 6:00.

**Meeting Minutes submitted by:**



Hollie DeFranco

Congregation Council Secretary