

Council Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

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

ABSENT:

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:38PM
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Patti
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for May 21, 2026:** A. Beer made a motion to approve the agenda with the correction of Patti doing devotions; P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes Apr. 16, 2026:** P. Mason made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; M. Hylinski seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer's report:** – See attached.
6. **President's report:** – Andy attended a 2 hour long very informative, training for verifier training, wisdom has groups all around the country, if you are now interested you need to sign up for the actual training. You are observing. Attended (along with Dana) the Grace Lutheran Church closing service this past weekend.
7. **Pastor's Reports**
 1. **Pastor Jordan** – See attached. There will be a combined July and August Spirit
8. **Old Business**
 1. **2026-2027 MMRP** – Keith passed around copies of a draft MMRP. Next month Council will vote on the final budget plan. If you have questions or need further details reach out to Keith or Dan N. Very important for ministries to write up their one time wishlists for projects to bring up at the annual meeting.
 2. **Adventures in Renewal Update (Stephanie)** – Met with executive committee and with through the list of recommended names. Will reach out to about 20 individuals and have a personal conversation with them. Would also like to have an informational meeting.
 3. **Website Feedback (February Action Items)** – No feedback was received. Technology is a big thing right now. It is critical to invest in technology especially with Tilthy has changed and how it pulls into the website. When people are looking for a new church they will go directly to the website. Andrea investigated and looked into Sites set up Solutions.com. Will cost approximately \$1000 to update Tilthy. Visual Brand package would be useful for the website as well. \$800 for this (will give us a discount). Will rebuild it from the bottom up. Andrea can share the links for people to look at. These are one time payment. There are support features and training. It is really about communicating with those outside the congregation and we need to do it well. This is also about our social media presence as well (SMLC Branding). Have the ability for each ministry to update/run their own page.
9. **New Business**
 1. **Ministry Reports for Annual Meeting** – these needs to be to Beth by June 23rd.
 2. **Future of St. Mary's Conversations** – See Pastor Jordan's Report
 3. **People Needing Assistance Ideas (Lisa)** – what Lisa has learned is that we want to tell people and meet them where they are, that we see you and hear you and are facing challenges. We cannot give you money, but what we can give you this care package and a list of immediate services and long range. On the table by the office. The care package will be in the library, in case someone is approached. Keith requested that there is a script, then when we are meeting with people who are having big events and using the building, then we can say here is how you address when these situations occur. Need to think about ways to communicate this.

MINISTRY REPORTS & MOTIONS			
Ministry	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith		None
Caring Ministries	Pastor Jordan		None
Church in Society	Patti	• See attached report	None
Education—> Faith Formation	Andrea		None
Finance	Keith		None
Friendly Center	Lisa		None
I. Technology	Andrea/ Keith		None
Nominating	Dana	• Dana to do a temple talk • The three people up for renewal please let Dana know.	None
Personnel	Andy		None
Property	Keith	• See attached report	None
Reconnect Hospitality & Fellowship	Hollie	• Stephanie to send out an email about Council Hosting Kringle Mingle in June.	None
Stewardship	Stephanie		None
WMA	Markie		None
Youth/Sunday School	Sandy		None

Discussion points that need to be highlighted and motions that are needed from Council (anything over \$500)

10.Council Connection concerns: May – Patti- 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	

PARKING LOT

Getting to Know a St Mary's Member	14 Dec 2023	
Church Service Analysis Update		
Protecting Places of Worship	16 Nov 2023	Mentioned again 11/20/25
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	1/15/26: A. Beer brought up that it is important that this document get updated/complete re-write and on it.	
Memorial Giving Policy		Finance		
Chapel Lounge Monitor Training/ Guidance				
150th Anniversary Historical Booklet/ Video	17 Nov 2025		Keith	30 June 2026

ACTION ITEMS

Item	Date Entered	Notes	Responsible person if applicable	Due Date
Website feedback	02.19.26	Send your feedback to Andrea and Keith by May 1 to discuss at next IT meeting.		Enter as old business agenda item for May Meeting
Emergency Preparedness Plan	5.21.26	What should be done in different emergencies/severe weather. Can we get a professional in to do a site visit. Stephanie to reach out to a contact.		June Meeting

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. **May 23:** No Saturday worship at SMLC (Memorial Day Weekend)
- B. **May 23:** Spirit Deadline
- C. **May 24:** Combined Kenosha ELCA Worship at Trinity 9am
- D. **May 29/30:** GMS Assembly
- E. **May 30/31:** Pastor Fursan Zum'ot from Palestine preaching at SMLC
- F. **June 6/7:** Pastor Fursan Zum'ot event about being a Christian in the Holy Land at 4pm
- G. **June TBC:** Youth Bingo
- H. **June 07:** Senior Sunday
- I. **June 18:** Council Meeting
- J. **June 17:** Spirit Deadline for July/August combined
- K. **July 03:** Church Office Closed
- L. **July 04:** No Saturday worship at SMLC
- M. **July 05:** Combined Worship at Spirit Alive 10:45 AM
- N. **July 12:** Kingfish Game (\$16/ticket)
- O. **July 26:** Annual Meeting Date & Good Samaritan Fund Weekend

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

16. Adjournment – [Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM](#)

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

April 2026 TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - April 30, 2026

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	(25,102.66)
April Income	44,460.24
April Expenses	<u>(49,883.28)</u>
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	<u>(30,525.70)</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 -	
Investment Accounts Ending Balance	<u>123,641.57</u>

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	<u>107,456.10</u>
---	-------------------

Total Fund Balances	<u>289,323.74</u>
----------------------------	--------------------------

Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	28,753.72
Money Market Account	60,570.02
Investment Accounts CD opened Trustone	200,000.00

Total Current Assets	<u>289,323.74</u>
-----------------------------	--------------------------

	<u>0</u>
Difference	<u>0.00</u>

Mortgage Balance	<u>254,283.20</u>
-------------------------	--------------------------

Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

Pastor's Report

May 21, 2026

St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

The executive committee and I continue to have conversations, pray, and discern our pastoral needs going forward. Although there is nothing specific to share at this time, please know that we are tending to the needs of St. Mary's, and things are going as we expect them to.

By June 1, a decision will be made about the Greater Milwaukee Synod rescheduled trip to Palestine. I will be gone from June 23-July 5. Pastoral care coverage will be as follows:

-for June 23-28, please call Pastor Becca Laabs (Trinity/Lakeside) at 608-632-1045.

-for June 29-July 5, please call Pastor Wesley Isberner (Spirit Alive) at 262-612-3790.

My friend, Pastor Fursan Zum'ot from Palestine, will preach at St. Mary's on Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7. On Saturday, June 6 at 5:30 pm after worship at St. Mary's, he will give a presentation on Being Christian in the Holy Land. His presentation is free, the community is invited, and light refreshments will be served.

During the summer, we will be using ELW setting 10 for worship. We will begin using setting 10 the weekend of Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, and continue using it through Labor Day weekend, which will be a Kenosha ELCA combined worship service here at St. Mary's.

The CUSH Religious Leaders Caucus will be visiting member congregations this spring and summer. They were scheduled to visit St. Mary's on Saturday, June 6, but will now be coming on Saturday, July 25.

Church in Society Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm on Thursday May, 14.

Members present included Ralph Tollas, Margaret VanBoven, Anne Winkle, Steve Hartfield, Kathy Neururer

Devotions were led by Anne Winkle from Bread for the World, which is now 50 years old.

Devotions for the next meeting on June 11, will be led by Steve Hartfield.

Minutes from the last meeting on April 9, 2026 were read and approved.

Financial Report: Budget #6201 \$0.00 Dedicated Account #3243 \$468.09

Fair Trade Coffee Fund #3208 no update

Old Business

No current report on Afghan refugees. Please keep them and all refugees in your prayers.

Cost of chocolate used by WELCA for the Mad Hatters Tea -

Motion was made by Steve and seconded by Margaret that \$75 should be reimbursed to CIS for the candy used for the tea. During discussion, it was suggested that instead the chocolate should be considered a donation to WELCA instead. Because the current finances of the coffee fund are not known, it was decided to wait to make a decision until more information is available. The previous motion was withdrawn. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Margaret to wait to make a decision until CIS knows the balance of the coffee fund.

New Business

Fair Trade Products:

Saturday, May 16 – self- serve

Sunday, May 17 -Anne, Margaret, Kathy

Christmas in July -

Kathy reported that bookmarks which will be distributed to kick off Christmas in July are being developed by Beth. Patty Mason will do a temple talk that weekend (June 20/21) concerning needs of the Outreach Center. Margaret volunteered to help distribute bookmarks on Sat. June 20 and Anne would cover June 21. Enough bookmarks giving information about Christmas in July will also be distributed to some of the other ELCA churches. Mary Zorn will be contacted to find out if she would be available to address the congregation as to the needs of the Outreach Center. Steve suggested one of the bookmarks be designed with children in mind.

CIS serve coffee – CIS will plan on serving coffee on July 12 in coordination with Christmas in July.

Shalom Center – Gala held last week was well attended. This last Saturday (May 9) Stamp Out Hunger was held in conjunction with the post office. The Center will again do a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser in the fall at St. Mary's.

Bread for the World – There is a need worldwide for food as funds to support this cause have been drastically cut.

Outreach for Hope – bike ride will take place on Sept. 27

Grace Lutheran – The Grace building has been sold to Kenosha Human Developmental Services and closing will be next week. Other community organizations will also be involved in this location. This Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 pm, the Service of Holy Closure will take place. All are invited.

Breaking the Chains Ministry – Steve reported a deacon is being sought for this ministry.

Kenosha Welcome Center – St. Mary's "Food on the First" will not be held in July to encourage members to donate to Christmas in July.

Outreach Center – Margaret will be contacting groups that helped provide snacks last year.

CUSH – Motion was made by Steve and seconded by Margaret to donate \$300. to CUSH as we have done other years. After a brief discussion, motion was voted on and passed.

June 6 – a pastor from Palestine will be preaching at St. Mary's Saturday, June 5 and Sunday, June 6. At this time, CUSH is also planning on visiting that weekend although they will be contacted about the possible conflict and may decide on a different date.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

Next CIS meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 1 pm in the library.

Kathy Neururer
CIS

Property Committee Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

MOTIONS TO BRING TO COUNCIL:

HIGHLIGHTS/TOPICS FOR COUNCIL GUIDANCE:

ATTENDANCE: Dave Frost, Dave Sandahl, Christine Johnson, Ralph Tollas, Dave Raszkievicz.

ABSENT:

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. **Call to order: 5:36 PM**
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:**
3. **Distribute Property Committee Agenda**
4. **Approval of Property Committee Meeting Minutes from 3/2/25.**
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Voting went well.
 - b. Key FOB is still an issue. Key FOB is being replaced by Midwest Alarm when they get the part.
 - c. Lift worked well for Good Friday service.
 - d. All exterior lights have been replaced and are good.
 - e. Door seals need to be evaluated by Town and Country
6. **New Business**
 - A. Two air handling heating units circa 1974 have failed in the basement. We are looking to replace valves and pipes to get one unit online. The second unit that provides heat to the gym needs to be evaluated to see what the problem is.
 - B. Reviewed eighth month budget. We foreshadow a budget shortfall of about \$1400 due to increases in electric usage and rates, equipment, and land maintenance.
 - C. New hole at west carport. Needs to be filled with sand and sealed.
 - D. Paint East Narthex South wall. *No change, waiting for quotes to patch, prime, and paint*
 - E. Repair Sanctuary East & West drywall walls and paint. *Need an estimate. Angie Brien*
 - F. Gym Floor (in summer: midweek after 08/11/26, from account 7206 Building Maintenance): Deep clean, rinse, and buff with neutral cleaner. (Firehouse Estimate \$1,827.15).
7. **Parking Lot items (if applicable):**
 - A. Dave Raszkievicz concrete bench ends for use at exterior of east narthex entrance area: bench ends have been power washed, recommended to NOT use solid core plastic wood and use treated lumber instead, with red stain. [bench length for 3 people ~49-1/2", plan to cut 8' 2"x4" in half for bench] *No change*
 - B. Gym Floor cleaning set up time, next year's budget.
 - C. Upgrade fluorescent lighting in 1W, Choir, Sacristy, Sunday School Office, 3W, and 4E.
 - D. Chair lift for basement.
 - E. Lift to clean ceiling fans? Need outriggers for lift.
8. **Upcoming Calendar of Events:**
 - a. Next Property Committee Meeting Monday, May 4th at 5:30 PM 1W.
9. **Closing Prayer:** Amen, Alleluia.
10. **Adjournment: 6:45PM**

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: David Raszkievicz