

Minutes of Congregation Council Meeting

June 17, 2025

7:00 pm

I. Call to Order 7:00pm

- a. Attendance: Katie Bashus, Faye Casciano, Mike Epperly, Kristin Ervin, John Osenbach, Hannah Schmoyer, Pastor Shari Duminy, Pastor Tami Reichley, Courtney Keiser, Tom Bradley, Bob Mueller, Pastor Cindy Camp, Bob Bolen, Rob Sandoval, Kyle David, Mike Berkheimer
- b. Devotions: Mike Berkheimer

II. Discussion

- a. Artwork management
 - a. A few members have volunteered to do artwork hanging, retiring, and disposal as per Art Review Committee final proposal as approved by Congregational Council
- b. Security group organization is ongoing, including finding a leader
- c. Handbell restoration project
 - a. Received proposal from Jeffers Handbell
 - b. Dedicated funds to pay for restoration
 - c. Restoration expected to extend the handbells' usability by 3-5 years
 - d. Expected to be finished by the end of July
- d. Resource listing being led by Bob Mueller is ongoing with goal of completion by next council meeting
- e. Membership roster cleanup
 - a. Staff and Pr Shari are updating the membership roster and identifying members who have not been seen recently or only attend on holidays
- f. Synod finances
 - a. Synod Assembly approved the 2026 budget, which is balanced at approximately \$2.2 million in expenses
 - b. Synod Council and the Bishop will be reviewing structural/staffing change required to balance the Synod budget beyond 2026
 - c. LCHS' contribution for this year is \$34,320
 - d. Further communication with congregations is expected throughout the year
- g. 8:30 AM worship service planning group inquired about council's growth goal for worship attendance

- a. Council does not have a specific goal
- h. Worship styles
 - a. Prior to COVID, the 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM services were distinctly different, traditional vs. contemporary (pertaining to music and liturgy)
 - b. These services have become a blend of the styles
 - c. Council expressed the need for a concrete proposal from the worship work group about changes to service styles
- i. Youth ministry revitalization
 - a. There is a need for more youth ministry
 - b. Need for more planning
 - c. Possible need full-time youth/young adult director
 - d. Youth ministry budget questions raised such as need for dedicated food budget
- j. RIC welcome statement
 - a. Statement is ready for feedback
 - b. There are designated sessions that congregants can give feedback
 - c. No clear precedent on whether statement needs congregational approval since it is not a mission statement and LCHS is already an RIC member
 - d. It is up to council to decide the process of approval
- k. Tanzania mission trip was successful and rewarding
- l. VBS
 - a. 105 children registered
 - b. Many participants from outside the congregation
 - c. Consideration on how to bring VBS attendees from outside the congregation to future church events and worship

III. Approve May 2025 Meeting Minutes. **APPROVED.**

IV. Adopt the revised set of Core Values as proposed by the Strategic Planning Work Group. Council suggested some edits to wording. **APPROVED.**

V. Prioritizing data cleanup before evaluating or transitioning to a new software system. Goal is to complete data cleanup by the end of the summer. Decisions on software changes deferred.

VI. The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit Financial Summary, May 2025

MAY OPERATING INCOME

\$89,689 - \$10,245 ABOVE budget (12.9%)

- Operating pledged income (\$49,847) was 25.4% UNDER budget.

- Operating unpledged income (\$34,505) was \$28,518 ABOVE expectations thanks to two large checks totaling \$25,000.

MAY NET INCOME

\$ 16,937 (compared to a budgeted operating cash balance of \$656)

MAY OPERATING EXPENSES

\$ 72,752 - Expenses UNDER budget by \$6,035 (7.66 %)

- Technology expenses are under budget.
- Building Maintenance and Service Contracts are above budget.
- People expense is down due to no Sexton Salary/Benefits – somewhat offset by cleaning services under Service Contracts.

MAY OPERATING CASH BALANCE

\$244,504

- Increase of \$16,937 over the previous month of April.
- This increase was \$16,281 ABOVE the budgeted amount.

BUILDING FUND

\$6,277.44 – Balance as of May 31, 2025

- Deposits -\$1,025
- No expenditures during May

SPIRIT LED/SPIRIT ALIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

\$1,114.30 – Balance as of May 31.

- Deposits - \$255

MORTGAGE UPDATE

\$352,731.22 – Balance as of May 31, 2025

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The \$56,271.48 estate gift from the Boyer Family Trust has been received.
- All prior funds for hand bell refurbishment have been combined into a Hand Bell Program Reserve Fund which currently has a balance of \$5,078.38. Deacon Reylene has received an estimate of \$4,413.50 from Jeffers Hand Bell Supply, Inc. This reserve fund will be used to pay this bill. If replacement parts are needed, memorial funds are available to pay for them.

- As the church's electricity supplier renewal contract with Constellation Energy expires in December, 2026, Nadine Hohe and Chris Carter met with Drew Pangborn, an energy advisor with Energy By 5, on June 5, to lock in a rate for three years (December, 2026, through December, 2029, with NRG. The contract rate will be \$.0727/kWh..
- Effective June, 2025, a capacity charge will be applied to all electric supply costs. Our estimated annual capacity cost for the remaining months of 2025 will be \$725. The estimated annual capacity cost for 2026 will be \$3,000.
- The Finance Mission Team is encouraging the Congregational Council to keep an eye on the church's operating cash balance total so a decision can be made in December if a reduction in that operating cash balance is necessary heading into 2026.
- Nadine Hohe reported that the new digital message sign is working well and she is pleased with how easy it is to program.

VII. Open discussion

- a. Need for a technology staff person

VIII. Tuesday, July 15, 2025 Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM, Assignment of devotions to Courtney Keiser

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm