

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 21, 2025

**Time:** 5:42 PM

**Prepared by:** S. Schnare

## Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair  
Marshall Robar  
Pastor A. Smith

Andre Brideau  
Sandra Schnare  
Pastor V. Featherson

Karen Corkum  
Lucille Wentzell

Karen Field  
David Zwicker

**Regrets:** Ann Joudrey

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## 1. Call to Order

- P. Oickle called the meeting to order and offered the opening prayer

## 2. Approval of Minutes

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by K. Field, to approve the minutes of May 25, 2025.  
**Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*
- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by A. Brideau, to approve the minutes of June 22, 2025.  
**Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

## 3. Financial Report

*The following reports were circulated via email and will be formally approved at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

### 3a. Financial reports for July 2025 (full report circulated via email on August 10, 2025)

- July general fund deficit: - **\$6,641**
- 2025 general fund surplus (Jan. 1 – July 31): + **\$13,263**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$70,814**

### Income Statement Notes:

- General fund offerings were down \$2,765 from July 2024. \$1,561 of this decrease is regular envelopes. \$355 is PAD. \$660 is E-transfers.
- Room rentals: \$11,032. \$9,300 of that relates to SSODA.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service. Salaries and benefits are down \$3,279 for July compared to July 2024 due to SSLSM arrangement.
- Snow Removal: \$839 for sanding and salting for winter 2024-2025. \$452 for winter 2023-2024 (less plowing and no sanding)
- Fellowship: \$89 for June 29 special service BBQ at camp Mush-A-Mush – plates, cups and forks.
- Worship supplies: \$50 Sundays and Seasons worship book ordered by Pastor Annette
- Outreach: \$37 for ice cream social supplies

### **3b. Financial reports for June 2025 (full report circulated via email on July 18, 2025)**

June general fund deficit: **- \$825**

- 2025 general fund surplus (Jan. 1 – June 30): + **\$6,622**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$64,173**

#### **Income Statement Notes:**

- General fund offerings were down \$1,687 from June 2024. \$1,747 of this decrease is regular envelopes. \$355 is PAD. E-transfers up \$970
- Windows: \$370 in donations received during month. \$1,715 in donations received to-date.
- Miscellaneous: \$241
  - \$11 for church member printing
  - \$200 donation from SSLSM for June 29<sup>th</sup> camp BBQ
  - \$30 bank reconciling issue with cancelled PAD accounts
- Room rentals: \$10,016. \$9,000 of that relates to SSODA.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service. Salaries and benefits are down \$3,198 for June compared to June 2024 due to SSLSM arrangement.
- Parking lot refurbishment \$2,675 – Design Point Engineering & Surveying Ltd. parking lot drawings
- Power: \$4,676. For service between Feb. 21 – June 25, 2025. April bill was late due to NSP cyber hack.
- Office supplies: \$152.
  - \$128 USB drives for office
  - \$24 labels
- Software subscriptions: \$180
  - \$155 Microsoft office annual renewal
  - \$25 zoom monthly fee
- 2026 offering envelope boxes: \$550 – Of personal note, I would like to see the amount of boxes reduced next year. We are wasting more and more boxes each year. Perhaps stewardship can work with Gail to create a new list of people who would like boxes and we can adjust contribution numbers?
- Technology: \$176 for wireless headset and battery charger for pastor microphone
- Fellowship: \$413 for June 29 special service BBQ at camp Mush-A-Mush. \$200 of this cost was offset by SSLSM donation toward BBQ (above)

### **3c. Financial reports for May 2025 (full report circulated via email on June 10, 2025)**

- May general fund surplus: + **\$9,034**
- 2025 general fund surplus (Jan. 1 – May 31): + **\$7,447**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$64,998**

#### **Income Statement Notes:**

- General fund offerings were down \$928 from May 2024. \$103 of this decrease is regular envelopes. \$385 is PAD. \$250 is loose cash.
- Windows: \$1,145 in donations received during month.
- Room rentals: \$10,356. \$9,300 of that relates to SSODA.

- Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service. Salaries and benefits are down \$3,313 for May compared to May 2024 due to SSLSM arrangement.
- Repairs & Maintenance: \$13: Gow's Home Hardware batteries.
- Office supplies: \$133 for stamps
- Conventions: \$160 for David Zwicker "Pathways to Peace" conference
- Software subscriptions: \$23 zoom, \$97 website subscription renewal

#### **Two GICs are up for renewal on September 23rd:**

- A \$30,000 GIC from the parsonage sale, designated for a special project, was discussed. A. Brideau recommended reinvesting the funds for one year at an interest rate of 2.75%. **Moved** by A. Brideau, seconded by D. Zwicker, to reinvest for one year. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously*
- A. Brideau recommended increasing the unrestricted GIC from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for a one-year term at an interest rate of 2.75%. **Moved** by A. Brideau, seconded by L. Wentzell, to increase the \$10,000 GIC to \$40,000 for a one-year term at 2.75% interest. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously*.

### **5. Old business**

#### **5a. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)**

##### **K. Field reported on South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)**

- Discussion took place regarding reaching out to other churches for potential shared ministry opportunities. However, it was noted that some churches may feel they do not have sufficient resources to undertake initiatives independently.
- The SSLSM approved the St. Paul's All-Saints celebration, which will include opportunities for people to suggest hymns and light candles in memory of loved ones.
- Mahone Bay is considering hosting Reformation Sunday, though details are not yet confirmed.
- A retreat is planned for October 18th. The executive will check the availability of Camp Mush as the venue; if unavailable, an alternative location will be arranged.
- On November 30th, St. Luke's and St. James will host a café-style event, modeled after a similar initiative by the Anglican Church in New Germany.
- Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Two ministers will be covering services for nine churches. It was noted that the 4:00 p.m. service does not include communion, and preparations from last year's cancelled service may be considered.

#### **5b. Youth Ministry:**

- **Youth Ministry Update**  
A one-day youth ministry event was organized by L. Wentzell, Pastor Victoria, V. Oickle, and K. Corkum. Seven children attended the gathering, with Lego and puff puffs being particular highlights. The total cost of the event was \$120 plus a watermelon. Planning is already underway for another youth ministry event to be held in the spring.

- **Young Adults Retreat**

A young adult retreat is being planned for June 2026, with details still to be finalized. Rev. Adam Snook has shared a link to potential funding opportunities, and St. Paul's will take the lead on this event. The retreat, which is intended for individuals aged 18–34, will be promoted in Halifax as well as across other denominations, including Anglican, United, and Presbyterian communities. Camp Mush has been chosen as the venue for the event.

#### **5c. Nova Doors and Windows (update)**

- All new windows have been installed and paid for, except for one window that did not fit. Window replacements (hall, office, and kitchen, upstairs and downstairs) took two and a half days instead of the budgeted four. Some exterior trim remains to be painted.

#### **5d. Parking Lot (update)**

M. Robar and P. Oickle reported that the parking lot plans have been received. A three-foot trench must be dug along the wall by the fence, with attention to the town's bylaw on water runoff. Since we have more than four parking spaces a water mitigation plan is required at a cost of \$2,500 plus HST. Halifax Paving has provided a quote for cutting and removing the pavement for both the trench and the bank. It was noted that digging the trench without damaging the pavement may be challenging, as the area was last backfilled in the 1860s.

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### **6. Correspondence**

- NONE

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### **7. Ministry Team Reports**

#### **7a. Property Team**

- M. Robar reported on the sound system, noting that improvements were achieved by adjusting the speaker direction and through the Pastor's use of the new microphone/headset.
- The church was informed that Rogers plans to replace the current generator with a larger unit. It was noted that the church should retain ownership of the new generator. There was also discussion that the old generator could potentially be donated to the church camp.
- SSODA reported that bed usage has increased by 10, bringing the total to 25, largely due to people being displaced from the woods where they can no longer stay. It was noted that this rise in occupancy will impact bathroom and laundry facilities, resulting in higher electricity consumption.

## **7b. Worship Ministry**

- S. Schnare reported that the 5th Sunday service will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup> at Shipyards Landing, with the church as the backup location in case of weather. Everyone will gather at 10:30 AM, with the service beginning at 11:00 AM. O. Joudrey will share a brief message on paying it forward, and K. Corkum will deliver the reflection, introducing the Friends of Creation Lake Chad project. Posters have been distributed, a notice has been posted on Facebook, and other churches have also shared the event. Programs and songbooks are nearly complete, and a choir practice will take place on the Thursday before the service. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch, sing along, and bring their own lawn chairs. M. Robar will assist with the sound system.
- The next ice cream social is on August 24<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 AM service.
- Setting Seven will continue to be practiced until Advent.
- Licensing for music is being reviewed for potential duplication. CCLI has been renewed.
- Saturday afternoon services were cancelled for the summer following survey results showing low interest in continuing them. Until the next budget year, six services per month will continue to be funded. A proposal was made to offer a Wednesday evening Bible study around 6:30 PM, with Zoom access available. Pastor Victoria suggested an alternate study format incorporating a land acknowledgement, art, music, Bible study questions, and a text, while another idea raised was a book study focused on the work of the woman who initiated Orange Shirt Day. This initiative is planned to begin in October or November.

## **7c. Stewardship Team**

- No report.

## **7d. Music Team**

- No report.

## **7e. HR Ministry**

- No report.

## **7f. Esthetics Committee**

- No Report

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## **8. New Business**

### **8a. Friends of Creation Fundraiser**

- Pastor Victoria and Pastor Annette introduced the Friends of Creation challenge from Canadian Lutheran World Relief, which invites churches across Canada to participate. Over four Sundays, the congregation will journey with communities near Lake Chad, where farmers face challenges due to a changing climate. Each week will focus on a theme—water, food, economy, and peace,

—through which participants will reflect on God’s call, hear stories of courage and hope, and take action together to help restore land around Lake Chad.

- It was suggested that the remaining Rock Church outreach funds (approximately \$1,800) be used for donation matching. This proposal will be considered.

#### **8b. Address to the Congregation from the John Howard Society**

- A congregation member proposed an address to the congregation from the John Howard Society. This is being considered for November as part of a presentation on restorative justice.

#### **8c. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry Documents**

- The physical documents of the South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry will be stored at St. Paul’s in a filing cabinet located in Pastor Annette’s office.

#### **8d. Christmas Preparations**

- **Adopt a Family:** It was confirmed that the plan is to sponsor four families this year. T. Crouse has offered to help and, along with S. Schnare, will handle the grocery and gift shopping. To reduce confusion, monetary donations are being considered instead of item donations, with the church contributing \$500 in additional funds.
- **Operation Christmas Child:** It was decided to withdraw support from Operation Christmas Child due to concerns about unsavory stipulations tied to the distribution of the shoeboxes. Instead, plans are underway for a “Winter Warm Up” event in February, with donations of items to be directed to local people through Souls Harbor and SSODA.

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#### **9. Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM