

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14, 2025

Time: 4:13 PM

Prepared by: S. Schnare

Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair
Ann Joudrey
David Zwicker

Andre Brideau
Marshall Robar

Karen Corkum
Sandra Schnare

Karen Field
Lucille Wentzell

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer

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

2. Approval of Agenda

- **Moved** by K. Field, seconded by M. Robar, to approve the agenda as amended.
Decision: *Carried unanimously.*

3. Approval of Minutes

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by L. Wentzell, to approve the minutes of October 26, 2025. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

4. Financial Report October and November 2025

Financial reports for October 2025.

October general fund surplus: + **\$3,659**

- 2025 general fund surplus (Jan. 1 – Oct. 31): + **\$2,251**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$59,802**

Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$2,591 from October 2024. \$1,921 of this decrease is regular envelopes, \$430 is PAD.
- Room rentals: \$10,356. \$9,300 of that relates to SSODA. \$726 is Rogers Communications.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service.
- Repairs and maintenance: \$762. \$253 for Len's Plumbing relates to heat pump repair, \$351 Irving Energy oil boiler annual service, \$158 Brunswick Fire Systems semi-annual inspection of kitchen fire suppression system
- Power: \$1,533 for usage between August 26 – October 28 ESTIMATED Bill
- Music copyright licenses: \$366 for "One License" subscription
- Synod Benevolence: \$417. Double payment in October due to September mail strike and missed payment
- CLWR: \$550 for Lake Chad donations
- Fellowship: \$87 for coffee pods and supplies

- Worship supplies: \$56 communion wine and wafers

Financial reports for November 2025.

- November general fund deficit: - **\$8,039**
- 2025 general fund deficit (Jan.1 – Nov.30): - **\$5,788**
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + **\$51,763**

Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$1,073 from November 2024. \$430 relates to PAD, \$460 to e-transfers.
- Room rentals: \$10,086. \$9,000 of that relates to SSODA. \$726 is Rogers Communications.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,780 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$630/service. Service rate increasing to \$661 effective January 1, 2026. Monthly cost to St. Paul's will increase by \$186.
- Repairs and maintenance: \$78 for Buck's Building Supplies to paint back computer desk in sanctuary. Old desk from library was repurposed which saved a great deal of money.
- Sanctuary audio \$20,123. Work completed to quoted price. Cost partially offset from special project fund (interest from parsonage sale) \$4,840 and \$550 in donations. Remaining \$14,733 taken from general fund.
- Books \$149 for *Eternity for Today* subscription (2026). Cost reduced from last year due to lower order number.
- Worship supplies \$211. \$170 for trial hymnals and \$41 for communion wine

Moved by A. Brideau, seconded by D. Zwicker, to approve the financial reports for October and November. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

- Hall Estate \$50,000 GIC maturing on December 18, 2025.

Moved by A. Brideau, seconded by L. Wentzel that the Hall Estate \$50,000 GIC be reinvested for one year. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

- Cost of living salary increase for salaried staff (Organist, Office Administrator and Treasurer). Synod increase is set at 2.5% for 2026.

Moved by S. Schnare, seconded by K. Corkum, that the staff salary increases be approved effective January 1, 2026. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

In closing, A. Brideau noted that the full budget will be presented in January once year-end financial information is available. It was also reported that offerings are significantly down from 2024, which will have an impact on the upcoming budget.

5. Correspondence

- NONE

6. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

- K. Field reported on behalf of the SSLSM Committee that a Bishop's Table is planned to take place in Mahone Bay in February, with further details to be provided at a later date. It was also noted that the next SSLSM Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20.
-

7. Old Business

- Use of Church by Non-Members (Deferred)
-

8. Ministry 'Team/Committee' Reports

8a. Property Team

M. Robar reported that the SSODA lease renewal is upcoming and that a meeting will take place in February to discuss the rental cost for the additional downstairs room. He also noted that the parking lot fence will require repairs in the spring.

8b. Worship Ministry

K. Corkum reported that the Worship Team met on December 2 and reviewed the new liturgical setting (Setting 8). The team discussed funds received for Christmas hampers and donations, as well as planning for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. It was noted that, instead of participating in the Servant's Heart/Operation Christmas Child boxes, the team will proceed with the Winter Warm-Up Community Project. A decision was made to continue the 4:00 p.m. services through January and the first part of February, up until Lent. The team is also exploring the possibility of incorporating a Bible study into this service.

8c. Stewardship Team

It was reported that the offering envelopes have been taken care of, and the team will meet again after Christmas.

8d. Music Team

- K. Corkum reported on the 9:00 a.m. music ministry team, which consists of Sarah VanderWal, Murray Barkhouse, and herself. The team practices at Sarah's house on the Saturday prior to their scheduled singing and meets with the pastors to plan music for extended periods, such as November and December. Their next meeting will focus on planning music from January through to Lent.

8e. HR Ministry

- No report.

8f. Esthetics Committee

- L. Wentzell gave a brief update on the renovations and reorganization of the former Library, Sunday School, and Youth Rooms.

8g. Connections Committee

- L. Wentzell reported that Christmas cards for the sick and shut-ins have been prepared, with some delivered by hand and others mailed. She also noted that S. Jodrey is exploring a potential winter project with Verge House.
-

9. New Business

9a. AGM

- It was decided that the AGM will be held on February 8, following the 9:00 a.m. service, with a storm date of March 8.

9b. Honourarium

- A request was brought forward to provide a Christmas honorarium for Sarah VanderWal in recognition of her contributions to the 9:00 a.m. music ministry. It was also noted that Sarah is to receive a \$2,500 annual honorarium, which she has requested be issued as a tax receipt rather than a cash payment.

Moved by S. Schnare, seconded by D. Zwicker, that Council approve a \$100 honorarium to S. VanderWal for her commitment and leadership of the 9:00 AM music ministry.

Decision: *Carried unanimously.*

9c. Christmas Families

- It was reported that donations have been received in support of six children, with the most recent total recorded at \$720 (\$120 per child). In light of rising grocery costs, a request was presented to increase the grocery budget from \$500 to \$1,000, which would result in an increase to the church's Christmas donation amount to \$1,000.
- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by K. Field, that Council approve an increase of the church's Christmas donation amount to a maximum of \$1,000.

Decision: *Carried unanimously.*

9d. Electronic Sign

- A discussion took place regarding the potential purchase of an electronic sign to display service times and pastors' names. The proposed sign measures 14 inches by 40 inches and can be programmed wirelessly via a phone application, allowing updates to be made either from the office computer or a mobile device. It was noted that the town would need to be consulted regarding any required permits prior to purchase. The cost of the sign is just under \$400, and the font colour can be changed. M. Robar to move forward with this item.
-

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM