

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 14, 2026

Time: 9:45 AM

Prepared by: S. Schnare

Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair
Marshall Robar,

Andre Brideau
Sandra Schnare

Karen Corkum
Lucille Wentzell

Karen Field
David Zwicker

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer

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

2. Approval of Agenda

- **Moved** by S. Schnare, seconded by K. Field, 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 May 3 as amended. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

4. Correspondence

Council discussed the correspondence from the SSLSM regarding Pastor Victoria's name change to Alex and use of they/them pronouns. S. Schnare will prepare a shortened announcement for email communication. A name-changing ceremony is tentatively planned for July 4 to coincide with the beginning of Pride Week, with a planning committee and volunteers needed.

5. Financial Reports (as circulated via email)

May 2026.

May general fund deficit: - \$1,566

- 2026 general fund deficit (Jan.1 – May 31): - \$1,098
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + \$56,359

Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$1,392 from May 2025. \$685 of that was attributed to e-transfers and \$612 was envelopes
- Camp mush donations received \$1,785
- Hymnal donations \$200
- Room rentals: \$10,451. \$9,300 of that relates to SSODA. \$741 is Rogers Communications.

- Pastor Salary: \$3,966 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$661/service.
- Repairs and maintenance - \$89
 - \$150 Brunswick Fire Systems inspection of kitchen
 - -\$239 refund from Cumings Fire and Safety for double billing for fire extinguisher inspection
- Downstairs kitchen \$2,283 for plumbing hookup. \$8,758 spent to date (including fridge from 2025).
- Camp Mush \$6,785. \$1,785 in member donations plus \$5,000 special donation from St. Paul's
- Worship supplies \$1,024
 - \$52 for communion wafers
 - \$972 for All Creation Sings hymnals (\$200 in donations to offset this cost)

April 2026.

April general fund deficit: - \$6,556

- 2026 general fund surplus (Jan.1 – Apr.30): + \$468
- Accumulated general fund surplus: + \$57,925

Income Statement Highlights:

- General fund offerings were down \$932 from April 2025. \$540 of that was attributed to e-transfers. \$365 was attributed to PAD.
- Room rentals: \$10,146. \$9,000 of that relates to SSODA. \$741 is Rogers Communications.
- Pastor Salary: \$3,966 relates to South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry. St. Paul's is paying for 6 services x \$661/service.
- Snow removal: \$342 Stan's Plowing Service plowing for February – March. Total bill for 2025-2026 was \$840. Total cost last year was \$839.
- Power: \$2,712. \$3,619 NSP service for February 20 – April 23, 2026. This cost was offset by a \$907 bill to SSODA for washer/dryer for period of March – June 2026.
- Office Supplies: \$201 for paper, batteries and stamps
- Insurance: \$8,925 for property and liability renewal. Cost in 2025 was \$8,658.
- Software Subscriptions: \$121. \$97 relates to website annual hosting fee and \$24 relates to zoom.
- Offering Envelope Boxes: \$323. 2026 envelopes were \$550. Reduction in cost resulted from fewer boxes being ordered. In 2027 there will only be 70 boxes instead of 140.
- Fellowship: \$50 for main lobby coffee pods

Moved by A. Brideau, seconded by D. Zwicker, to approve the financial reports for April and May 2026. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously*

6. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

K. Field noted that Pastoral coverage will be required for one 11:00 a.m. service and three 9:00 a.m. services during scheduled vacation periods. Rick Price has been confirmed to provide coverage for the August 2, 11:00 a.m. service. Council agreed to request pastoral coverage for the remaining three 9:00 a.m. services through the South Shore Shared Ministry.

7. Old Business

7a. Youth and Young Adults Retreat

The Youth Retreat scheduled for June 12–14 at Camp Mush was cancelled due to low registration. As a result, the \$2,000 grant received for the retreat will be declined.

Moved by L. Wentzell, seconded by S. Schnare, that a \$200 honorarium be paid to Camp Mush from the Goddard Account to offset revenue that would have been earned from the event.

Decision: *Carried unanimously*

Pastor Alex will be asked to notify Synod of the cancellation and decline the grant. L. Wentzell will coordinate with Pastor Alex and notify G. Tracy regarding the honorarium payment and grant.

7b. The Week Ahead Newsletter

An updated format for the Week Ahead has been implemented using the free Canva program, resulting in improved readability and presentation. Council discussed the possibility of incorporating this information into a double-fold, 8½" x 11" printed bulletin for Sunday services.

Concerns were also raised regarding the PowerPoint projection, particularly that the font size is too small and there is insufficient contrast for easy viewing. D. Zwicker will speak with Pastor Annette regarding these concerns.

8. Ministry 'Team/Committee' Reports

8a. Property Team

M. Robar is obtaining quotes for exterior siding and other outdoor damage, as well as newly reported interior damage, including holes in the walls. SODA is aware of the damage, and quotes will be provided prior to their departure, although their departure date remains uncertain due to permit issues. Current maintenance needs include painting the new window trim, repairing loose tiles in the downstairs bathrooms, and stabilizing a toilet. Council also agreed to contact former rental groups, including South Shore Corral, and exercise/Tai Chi groups, to invite them to consider fall bookings. A commercial deep cleaning of the hall and all bathrooms will be arranged before the spaces are rented.

8b. Worship Ministry

K. Corkum reported that ELW Setting 8 will continue to be used until the end of June, followed by With One Voice for the summer months. Efforts are also being made to incorporate

appropriate readings and prayers throughout June in recognition of Indigenous Heritage Month. K. Corkum also noted that an inclusive worship service is planned for July 12 at 9:00 a.m., incorporating inclusive prayers, music, readings, and Pride-themed elements such as a rainbow candle and information about the colours of the Pride flag; and two names have been brought forward for the graduation service.

8c. Stewardship Team

No report.

8d. Music Team

No Report.

8e. HR Ministry

No Report.

8f. Aesthetics Committee

No Report.

8g. Connections Committee

No Report.

9. New Business

9a. Council Summer Business Dates and Authorization.

Council agreed that there would be no Congregational Council meetings during July and August. Any emergency matters arising during this period will be addressed jointly by the Chair and Vice Chair on behalf of Council.

9b. Engaging Lapsed Members

This item was deferred until the September Council meeting.

9c. Greenery Request

This item has been tabled.

9d. Member for property ministry team offer

P. Oickle has officially joined the Property Ministry Team, bringing experience in property management, carpentry, and painting.

9e. Proposed Change on Prayer List

It was recommended that the prayer list renewal period be changed from three months to one month. Council agreed to the change, with the provision that individuals requesting names be added to the prayer list are advised that requests must be renewed monthly.

9f. Saying Goodbye to Roof 25 & Community Outreach

A letter will be sent to the congregation acknowledging the closure of the Roof 25 project, recognizing St. Paul's role in providing overnight shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness, and encouraging the congregation to continue to keep those affected in prayer. A separate letter will be sent to SODA, the organization overseeing Roof 25, expressing appreciation for their work and extending an invitation to former Roof 25 clients to attend worship services at St. Paul's.

9f. Pride Parade Participation

Council confirmed St. Paul's participation as an official entity in the Pride Parade, with one objection noted. S. Schnare will contact Bishop Carla to confirm Synod participation.

9g. Breakfast Program

Council approved a proposal to provide breakfast to children in the community two days per week during July and August, on Wednesdays and Fridays. Brown bags containing items such as juice boxes and granola bars may also be provided for the days when breakfast is not offered. The program will operate from the new kitchenette, with the team lead having access to funds previously designated for the Community Café. The program will be available to any child in need, including elementary and junior high students.

Moved by S. Schnare, seconded by L. Wentzell, that the Breakfast Program be implemented beginning July 1. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously*

9h. Community Support and Fire Relief Efforts

Council discussed the possibility of St. Paul's becoming a Comfort Centre in the fall, noting that the church now has a generator and most of the necessary facilities, including a usable stove downstairs.

In response to the King St., Bridgewater fire relief efforts, L. Wentzell and A. Joudrey will purchase personal care items and supplies on Tuesday morning, with volunteers invited to assist with packing the items at 10:00 a.m. Donations are being collected to support the relief effort, and L. Wentzell will be reimbursed for initial expenses. Any surplus funds will likely be donated to the Salvation Army, which is coordinating relief efforts and has identified a need for toiletries, clothing, bedding, household essentials, and gift cards.

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

- K. Corkum ended the meeting with a prayer; meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.

Mini Meeting April 22, 2026

Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair

Andre Brideau

Karen Field

Marshall Robar,

Sandra Schnare

Lucille Wentzell

David Zwicker

Regrets: Karen Corkum

It was reported that SSODA made a request to change the intake time of Roof 25 clients from 8PM to 5PM. They have also requested full day access to the hall on Fridays.

Moved by L. Wentzell and seconded by K. Field to lease the building on Fridays at a negotiated cost of \$300 per day for the additional time. **Carried with no objections or abstentions.**

Moved by K. Field and seconded by L. Wentzell to allow intake of Roof 25 clients to start at 5PM instead of 8PM. **Carried with no objections or abstentions.**

It was noted that the SSODA current contract will end on May 31.

Mini Meeting May 12, 2026

Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair

Andre Brideau

Karen Field

Karen Corkum

Marshall Robar,

Sandra Schnare

Lucille Wentzell

David Zwicker

A request was made for a \$5000 donation to Camp Mush-a-mush to offset a funding shortfall due to the lack of federal grants.

Moved by, S. Schnare, seconded by L. Wentzell to donate \$5000 to the camp to offset the funding shortfall. **Carried with no objections or abstentions.**