

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** May 3, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Prepared by:** S. Schnare

## Attending:

Peter Oickle, Chair  
Marshall Robar,

Andre Brideau  
Sandra Schnare

Karen Corkum  
Lucille Wentzell

Karen Field  
David Zwicker

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## 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 April 12, 2026 as amended. **Decision:** *Carried unanimously.*

## 4. Correspondence - None

## 5. Financial Reports – No Report

## 6. South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)

K. Field reported on the SSLSM Executive activities. She noted that the “Day of Action” will take place on May 31 under the theme “Feed Hope. Share Love,” encouraging community outreach among participating churches. Non-perishable food items may be brought to the church throughout May or on the day of the service for transport to Mahone Bay, with donations designated for the Bridgewater Food Bank. Representatives from the food bank will speak during the gathering in place of a traditional sermon.

K. Field also reported on upcoming Reconciling in Christ education sessions led by Pastor Steve Hoffart regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression. Sessions are scheduled for May 20 with the South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry Council and May 21 as a public education session hosted at St. Paul's for all ten congregations. Council agreed to provide refreshments, including coffee, tea, juice, and cookies/donuts from Tim Hortons, for the public session, with expenses to be submitted to SSLSM. Hillary will be contacted to confirm responsibilities. **\*\*Note: Rescheduled to May 21 & 22\*\***

K. Field further noted that SSLSM announcements will now be shared at both Sunday services on a rotating basis to ensure communication reaches both congregations.

## **7. Old Business**

### **7a. Youth and Young Adults Retreat**

The Youth Retreat is scheduled to take place June 12–14 at Camp Mush. Registration is available online through the South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry Facebook page, with H. Scott assisting in the preparation of forms and promotional posters. Posters are being distributed this week, and Pastor Victoria will make an announcement regarding registration next week.

### **7b. The Week Ahead Newsletter**

Council determined that a new format is needed for the weekly newsletter. S. Schnare and L. Wentzell offered to assist with the redesign using Canva and will meet with Administrative Assistant G. Tracey to discuss a revamp of the “Week Ahead” later this month.

## **8. Ministry ‘Team/Committee’ Reports**

### **8a. Property Team**

Negotiations regarding SSODA’s use of church facilities are ongoing, with the current lease remaining in effect until the end of May. Council discussed several exterior repair and maintenance items. It was noted that a local business owner, will repair the corroded gate fence posts damaged by snow plows and has offered a 10% discount for the work. Bridgewater Glass is being contacted regarding repairs to the church doors. The front door may require a new sweep and updated hardware, while options are being explored to repair the bent hall door, including the possible installation of a side plate to act as a windbreak. Damage to the hall door will be expensed by SSODA. It was also noted that kneeling benches, which had not been used for several years, were removed from the sanctuary. A previous offer to donate pew pillows had been declined due to concerns that they could negatively affect the acoustics within the church. It was noted that the audio is currently not functioning on YouTube, preventing members of the online congregation from hearing them. The issue is believed to be a technical glitch and is being addressed.

### **8b. Worship Ministry**

K. Corkum reported on follow-up discussions from the April 14 Worship Committee meeting regarding communication and promotion across congregations. She noted that they discussed enhancing awareness of Wednesday worship services and other ministry activities through bulletin inserts and shared announcements. The possibility of moving the Wednesday service from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. was considered; however, regular attendees expressed a preference to keep the current 4:00 p.m. time.

It was also reported that the Worship Committee is recommending the purchase of 50 copies of the new hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*. It was also suggested that donations be

encouraged to support the purchase of the hymnals, including gifts made in memory or in honour of someone, or for personal use.

#### **8c. Stewardship Team**

L. Wentzell reported that the Stewardship Committee met on April 22, 2026, and completed the scheduling of offering counters through the end of the year. No additional fundraising initiatives were discussed, and the committee agreed to revisit fundraising plans when it reconvenes in September.

#### **8d. Music Team**

No Report.

#### **8e. HR Ministry**

No Report.

#### **8f. Aesthetics Committee**

S. Schnare reported that the kitchenette renovation is nearing completion, with a grand opening celebration planned following a team meeting within the next two weeks. S. Schnare extended high praise to the Aesthetics Committee for their work painting, cleaning, and organizing the space, as well as tidying the archive cabinet and relocating dishes and other items.

#### **8g. Connections Committee**

L. Wentzell reported that the Connections Team conducted outreach visits to Ridgewood, Pine View Apartments, and Shoreham, providing musical programming featuring guitar and keyboard accompaniment, along with 25 songbooks for community sing-alongs. Residents at Shoreham actively participated by singing with the team and extended an invitation for future visits. It was noted that the formation of the Connections Team emerged as an unintentional benefit of transitioning from committees to ministry teams, fostering more organic opportunities for outreach and community engagement.

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### **9. New Business**

#### **9a. Inclusive Worship Service**

Suzanne Jodrey proposed incorporating prayer, song, and contemplative elements into the July 5th, 9:30 a.m. worship service in support of Pride activities, with a focus on creating an inclusive and welcoming worship experience for diverse groups. S. Schnare will mention to Suzanne Jodrey to contact June Zwicker, Chair of the Worship Team, and the proposal will be discussed further at the May 12 Worship Team meeting.

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### **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.

A motion was made 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.

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