

Church Council
September 30, 2025

Present: Diane Menchhofer, Matt Gilmore, Chad Sapp, Pam Rasawehr, Ed Fuelling, Moriah Plattner, Lauren Fuelling, Sue Buxton, Karen Leugers, Don Trisel, Ingrid Tebbe, Mary Miller, Cheryl Heindel, Jennifer Barrett

Opening: Diane Menchhofer called the meeting to order. Matt Gilmore presented a devotional for the meeting.

Support Pastors' Report: Jennifer Barrett stated support pastors submitted their September reports.

Committee Reports: Pam Rasawehr and Moriah Plattner reported for the Worship Committee. The Worship Committee discussed preparations for All Saints Sunday, The Night of Promise (December 9th), and services on Christmas Eve. Mary Miller will be preaching all the Christmas Eve services for St. John Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran; she recommended Christmas Eve service times at 4pm and 9pm at St. John Lutheran and at 6:30pm at St. Paul Lutheran. Next Worship Committee meeting scheduled for November 17th.

Lauren Fuelling gave a brief overview of the Community Engagement Committee. She stated the campfire night with corn hole tournament was a small yet enjoyable first event for their committee. The committee is currently busy with preparations for the Seventh Day Slumber concert by the lake on October 16th. They are working to find volunteers for the concert and possibly will reach out to the congregation.

Diane Menchhofer stated that the Nominating Committee has extended nominations for all upcoming church positions except Vice President. She is encouraging the Council to give consideration for who in the congregation may be a good candidate.

Matt Gilmore stated for the Audit Committee that the auditor contacted Don Trisel about the 2024 audit. The Audit Committee, Don, and the auditor are coordinating to fill where they knew some policies are lacking and considering cleaning up some accounts.

Karen Leugers, Sue Buxton, and Lauren Fuelling reported for the Mutual Ministries Committee. They stated that reviewing job descriptions with staff are completed. They are discussing how often to perform routine check-ins (considering quarterly or semiannually).

Business Manager's Report: Don Trisel presented a summary of the September 2025 financial report. Don highlighted the budget is currently holding and work has begun for the 2026 church budget. Matt Gilmore motioned to accept the financial report; Chad Sapp seconded. Motion passed.

President's Report: Jennifer Barrett stated the CALL Committee reported preparing to interview a candidate and there may be a couple other potential candidates in the works.

Unfinished Business: Cheryl Heindel presented a mock-up of the conversion of the current nursery space into a new pastor's office and storage space in addition to reviewing layouts from last council meeting. Cheryl stated did not have pricing for the layouts; she will work on creating a budget for each potential project. Don Trisel advised Council that Capital Improvement Fund has seen a lot of activity this year paying for additional upkeep items like the sanctuary HVAC unit and repaving parking lots and recommends being aware of expenditures from this fund.

Chad Sapp stated meeting with Mack Electric for a bid on Octagon lighting. They discussed various lighting options for Octagon space. Chad plans to also receive a second bid on Octagon lighting to compare. Chad also met with Riesens for a sketch for the bathrooms. He will also get a second layout option from Muhlenkamps through Hunters. Sue Buxton asked if the church will need state approval to do the bathroom renovation; Chad to pursue a definite answer while gathering options.

Council discussed combined service dates for the remainder of 2025 and partially through 2026. In addition to combined services around certain holidays, Council opted to have combined services on Sundays with Congregational Meetings in order to facilitate church members being able to attend the meetings. Diane Menchhofer motioned, Pam Rasaweher seconded, and motioned passed for the following Sundays to have one worship service at 10:30AM:

- 11/16/2025 - Congregational Meeting with lunch provided to follow service
- 12/28/2025
- 2/8/2026 - Congregational Meeting with lunch provided to follow service
- 5/24/2026
- 7/5/2026
- 9/6/2026

New Business: Mary Miller advised Council that a letter to the Synod expressing St. John Lutheran's continued necessity for a SAM will need to be sent for Mary to continue supporting the church in the upcoming year. Matt Gilmore motioned for a letter to be sent stating Mary's continued need for the congregation; Ed Fuelling seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session: Council entered into executive session for approximately 50 minutes.

After exiting the executive session, Diane Menchhofer motioned for Kim Trisel to be hired for the Contemporary Music Director position. Chad Sapp seconded. Motion passed.

Matt Gilmore motioned that a paid trial period for Mary Miller's Custodial position be offered to a nominee with pay being the same as Mary's current rate. Chad Sapp seconded. Motion passed. Ingrid Tebbe stated she will inform the nominee of Council's decision.

Adjournment and Prayer: Jennifer Barrett called the meeting to adjournment. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Moriah Plattner