

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2025

Council Members Present:

Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower, Vinni Carey, Judy Ludwig, Karen Ness, Dana O'Brien, Kathy Olkowski, Valerie Vega

Members Absent:

Pastor Scott Cady, Pamela Little

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Diane Boscarino at 7:00 pm

Devotions and Prayer –

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

Thank you to all the VBS staff and helpers, the kids had a wonderful time. The community presenters were fantastic.

Thank you to Lisa Bodner for all that she did to organize the tag sale. Thanks to everyone who helped out set up and work on that day.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Vinnie Carey, Kathy Olkowski to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025, as amended.

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral Acts

- 5 in person pastoral conversations
- 1 nonmember funeral

St. Paul's events, activities, classes, meetings, etc.

- 4 zoom Bible studies
- 3 in person Bible studies
- 6 solicitations for concert sponsorship
- Men's Breakfast

- IT meeting
- 3 choir rehearsals
- 2 extra choir sessions
- 3 regular worship services
- 2 coffee hours
- 1 contemporary choir rehearsal
- 2 Meetings re: signage and outreach
- 5 days VBS
- 1 pre-baptismal meeting

Other

- 1 Naugatuck Valley Clergy text study

Discretionary Fund Balance \$39

Reflections: Thank you for a few days off; I appreciate being able to get a little R & R. There are three developments that I want you all to be aware of that I am very excited about. As you know, we are looking to revive Puppettude. To do this we need an adult leader. While we were at VBS (which was very well received by the way - thank you Paula and all helpers!), Gabby. Pamela Little's granddaughter, a Puppettude alum, said she'd consider it. Liz Falls said she'd assist her as needed. Also, Laney Hayes, another of Pam's grandchildren, said she'd be willing to help out, too. There will need to be much planning and prep work, but it looks like we'll be able to move forward with this. In another conversation with Karen Ness, we got talking about her medical training. That led me to ask her if she'd ever consider being our Parish Nurse. This is a role I saw in action in my prior congregation. A Parish Nurse might do many things, but some examples would be blood pressure checks, organizing vaccination clinics, maybe some nutrition or sleep issue classes, etc. At Karen's suggestion, I also asked Linda Gryniuk, the head OR nurse at Charlotte, if she'd be part of a team with Karen for this program. She expressed interest. Soon after my vacation I'll meet with them to see what plans we can make. Third, at Steve DiStefano's suggestion, we asked parents of our VBS campers to consider helping us start a junior youth group. I asked them to call the office with a Yes or No to let us know of interest. If we get even 4 families saying Yes, we'll get them together soon to look at the types of programs they'd support. All this bodes very well for our ongoing growth in ministries. I'm grateful to these potential new leaders and to all of you for what you do. God's peace, SC

Treasurer's Report

M/S/P Val Vega, Vinnie Carey to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, pending audit.

Working with quick books on in-out issues.

Old Business:

Land purchase- Alan Borghsi had someone review land for wetlands. There are small ones, but he thinks he can still work with property. He will have a surveyor come out next. We have not heard anything since then. Church owns 12.6 acres; he is looking at purchasing 5 or less acres. Kathy Olkowski expressed her concerns about selling the land. Diane mentioned that we are struggling financially, and if this works out, it will help us with doing the repairs that are necessary. While she is not looking to selling the land, she wants to keep our doors open. She is doing a lot of research on what the value of the land would be, and what other parcels of land are selling for. Our land is zoned residential; the developer would have to get it zoned commercial. It would be sold as residential. If it gets to that point, we will get a lawyer to look out for our interests.

Committee working relationships- working on getting them together in the fall

Website update- Judy spoke with him, he's working, slowly, on the website

Finding new council members and officers- 3 opening plus 4 people going off

Congregational meeting about Solar- Aug 20th – Diane is doing a lot of research on the cost of having the roof replaced, all or part, companies that would put solar up also, and companies that just do roof. She is also getting information on AC units. She called another company about the roof and the skylights. Waiting on getting a call back. If we go with solar, we will get a rebate at the end of the year that would make the project cost effective, which is why we need to have the meeting on Aug. 20. Diane has contacted 4 different companies; one said our project it not big enough. A packet for the congregation will be put together this week.

Cell tower interest- put on the back burner, information has been sent to Greg to look into.

New Business:

Pastor appreciation event, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, special coffee hour hosted by the council after church

Diane received a complaint that Pastor and Rachel are on vacation the same week. Council does not feel that there is a problem with this. Everything is covered.

Farmers Market and Kicks for Kids on the same day. There was a bit of confusion at the beginning, but things seemed to work out as the day progressed. Diane will send an email to all parties involved and try to work out any kinks. People who were there feel that there were safety issues with parking/driving and lining up way too early for Kids for Kids.

Use of Facilities will be on the agenda each month to make sure council is aware of what is going on.

Insurance issues - Diane expressed concern about the condition of some rooms in the church. There are mice problems, and everything needs to be off the floor and put on the shelves. All rooms and ceilings must be replaced. The insurance company will be coming through for inspection and all the rooms must be cleaned up before they show up. Council set a Sept. 1, 2025, deadline to have the rooms cleaned.

Insurance company told us that when repairs are made, we need to inform them about the repairs.

Committee Reports

Administration – Liaison: Diane Boscarino

As a reminder, I am on vacation starting on the 11th. On the Saturday the 9th, Friendly Hands is doing their Kicks for Kids event and will need to be let in and locked up on conclusion. The event itself is 10-3. I know Diane spoke to Karen so perhaps she knows what time they want to come in to set up/breakdown. Tuesday the 12th there is a blood drive from 8 a to 7 p (including setup/breakdown), we also have the farmers market at 3:00 (although they show up around 2) AND Tarringford is having Kindergarten welcome to school night and asked if they can park in the bottom lot as overflow. I told Tarringford it would be okay but we have a blood drive and the FM so there will be limited space. Their event starts at 5:00 pm. I would advise that cones are set up on Monday so the blood drive people do not park where the farmers market sets up as no one will be here to tell them otherwise.

CAFAF/DCF has applied for the fall session of their Thursday monthly meetings. I put their dates on the calendar. Are we going to charge them the same amount we did for the spring session since it is the same year? (\$50 per month for 9 months=\$450) This is separate from the one time use on September 5 for the teen meeting, they have returned their paperwork and are all set.

We really need to get the Frontier situation fixed. The code for long-distance calls is very inconvenient for everyone, since none of us have that code. Several people have asked me for it and were not pleased when I stated I do not have it.

Thank you! Rachel

July 2025	Attendees	Last Year	Season
6	72	72	Pentecost 4
13	73	65	Pentecost 5
20	74	84	Pentecost 6
27	78	80	Pentecost 7

Altar Guild – Liaison: Beth Brower - No Report

Christian Education – Liaison:

VBS went extremely well last week. We only had 10 children, all from St. Paul's, but it was a terrific week for not only the kids but the staff. The police department began the week by bringing their mobile crime lab, a police car, and a drone! Tuesday, a Hilltop & VBS alum, Kaleb Kesi, came and spoke about water safety, Wednesday Trinity ambulance and two EMTs came and did a hands on presentation with the kids, Thursday the fire department came and again, did an amazing job of letting the kids touch the truck, ask questions, and shoot the hose. Finally on Friday, friendly Hands brought their van and spoke about food insecurity and invited kids and their family to the Kicks for Kids give away on Saturday. We relied on music videos on YouTube for that aspect, which worked fine. We had a great staff of teachers and helpers. Pastor led the Bible Story each day and then the kids enjoyed outdoor games, crafts, and snacks. From a personal standpoint, I think God was shining down on us with the weather – no humidity, no outrageous temps, and no rain!!! Traditionally we are plagued with one or the other or a combination of the three!

I have invited the VBS families to come to worship next Sunday. I will also be reaching out to SS families and encouraging them to come as well. During the Children's Message we will be doing a blessing of their backpacks with a few treats to go in as well. I will also invite VBS and all children to sing a song that they learned and will be very easy for everyone to participate in!

I have also spoken to Phillip, and he will be playing the VBS video as folks are arriving at church next week. I want the congregation to witness how much our Community Partners came through for us last week! (I've been doing this for a veeeeery long time, and I do rank this as one of our best!)

Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 21st. We are going to begin Rally Day in the church with a few songs, and our big event is going to be a Scavenger Hunt around the church. Our goal is to get various committees involved by explaining what they do, where they do it, and have the kids get to know some off the "behind the scenes" areas they might not know about. (the sacristy is one that comes to mind when we can ask the altar guild members to explain how they do they job by setting up for communion, etc.)

First Communion will be celebrated on World Communion Sunday, October 5th for a group of 3-4th graders. A class for parents and their child will take place on Saturday, September 20th.

At our meeting next week, we will be putting together the Christian Education Calendar for school year 2025 – 2026. We will also prepare registration forms, Adopt-A-Child for Sunday School, etc.

Unfortunately, it seems we are losing a longtime co-teacher in the preschool class. Cathy Winzler has been teaching with Michelle Skibesky for many years, but she probably won't be able to return in September, due to the fact that she is relieving her mother in law's caregiver on Sunday mornings so she can worship at her church. The good thing is that Helen Winzler (Cathy's MIL) is "watching church" online with

Cathy on Sunday mornings. Michelle will continue teaching along with Hannah Winzler. If we can find another volunteer for the class, it would be helpful.

Congregational Care – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Eucharistic Ministry – Liaison: Pamela Little

Eucharistic Minister	Congregation Member Name	Visited	Date	Took Communion	Comments/Concerns	Request Pastoral Visit
Bonnie Schaff	<i>Gloria Thibault</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>7/3, 7/10, 7/17</i>	<i>Yes</i>		
Pam Ewing	<i>Fredrick George</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
	<i>Eleanor Klonoski</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Leah Seleman	<i>Renate Reise</i>	<i>Not Reported</i>				
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>7/12</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Helen's aide was present and took communion	
	<i>Ernie Marquard</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>7/29</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Audrey and Ernie both took communion	
	<i>Denise Gammon</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Need someone to visit	<i>Wallace Gangell</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Need someone to visit	<i>James Wolfinger</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Cynthia Rose	<i>Midge Rosenbeck</i>	<i>Not Reported</i>				

Evangelism – Liaison: Dana O'Brien – No Report

Family Ministry – Liaison: Diane, Val, Pamela, Judy– No Report

Fellowship – Liaison: Karen Ness

Our Fall Pork dinner has been rescheduled to Saturday, September 20th. I will try to get tickets made this week so we can begin selling dinner tickets next week before/after worship. We did raise the price by \$1, for the first time in many years. As everyone knows, everything has gotten so expensive! Menu will be roast pork, gravy, mashed potatoes, veggies, salad, bread, beverages, and Bundt cake for dessert. I encourage you to support us, please!

Fundraising – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Finance – Liaison: Val Vega – No Report

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report

Grants – Liaison: Pamela Little -

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

There was no meeting in July however, Hilltop was repainted by Quality Paint. The custodian, Casaundra Abeling is now working on getting all floors waxed and rugs cleaned in time for the teachers to return on 8/25/2025.

Barbara is working hard on enrollment and [preparing for the teachers return.

Hilltop's next meeting is scheduled for 8/14 @ 4:30 p.m., via Zoom.

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

IT met on July 16, 2025. Pastor, Robin, Dawn presented information about a video they want to create to highlight what's going on in the church. Dawn has knowledge in creating/editing the video. Dawn reviewed that they want to come up with. Dawn will be taking video of as many events as she can around the church. The committee voted to purchase a new lap top computer for Chris Ed, not to exceed \$750.00. There is money in the IT account to cover the purchase. Still having issues with security cameras. It is being looked into.

Property – Liaison: Diane Boscarino/Pamela Little – No Report

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Safety – Liaison: Bill Skibesky– No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Val Vega

Sharing Garden – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Social Concerns– Liaison: Karen Ness – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Beth Brower – No Report

Staff Support – Liaison: Judy Ludwig– No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

St. Paul's W/ELCA – Liaison: Vinni Carey

We are on summer break for now, but hopefully women are reading our summer book, *The Mountain Between Us*, by Charles Martin. We will reconvene on the fourth Monday in September, the 22nd, at 6pm for our Fall Kick-Off meeting, pizza and salad, and a book discussion. All women are invited to come and enjoy fellowship with their sisters in Christ.

Use of Facilities – Liaison: - Diane Boscarino, Rachel Harrel - No Report

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

Other Discussion

Prayer and Dismissal

Next meeting will be Sept. 15, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Judy Ludwig, Congregational Secretary

Council Terms

<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Judy Ludwig	Dana O'Brien	Diane Boscarino
Kathy Olkowski	<i>Vacant</i>	Beth Brower
Val Vega	<i>Vacant</i>	Pamela Little
Vinni Carey	<i>Vacant</i>	Karen Ness

2025 council meeting dates

1/13/25, 2/10/25, 3/10/25, 4/14/25, 5/12/25, 6/9/25, 7/14/25, 8/11/25, 9/15/25, 10/13/25, 11/10/25, 12/8/25