

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

Council Members Present:

Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower, Pastor Scott Cady, Vinni Carey, Pamela Little, Judy Ludwig, Karen Ness, Dana O'Brien, Kathy Olkowski, Valerie Vega

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

John Grunder, Paula Rosenbeck

Call to Order

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

Devotions and Prayer –

Pastor led with a prayer from our Worship Book.

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

None

Privilege of the Floor – Discussion with Paula Rosenbeck

1. **Emergency Line** – Already being dealt with.
2. **Cleaning of Room** –

Paula read a letter to the council regarding a discussion held at the August meeting about the cleaning of her room. She explained that several people had approached her over the past month concerning this matter. Paula stated that she has recently been dealing with pneumonia and other family issues, which have made it difficult for her to keep up with cleaning responsibilities. She assured the council that she is doing the best she can but expressed that she is feeling overwhelmed, and may need to step back somewhat and is uncertain how she will manage this going forward. Council briefly discussed this and indicated that they would be more than willing to step up and help her in any way they can.

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Pamela Little, Beth Brower to approve the minutes of August 11, 2025. Karen Ness and Pastor Cady abstain.

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral Acts:

- Spontaneous meeting with someone seeking some involvement
- Meeting with a neighbor in need
- 5 pastoral phone calls
- 4 in person pastoral conversations
- 4 nursing home visit with communion
- Funeral planning meeting
- 1 funeral
- 1 prenuptial meeting

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

- Men's Breakfast
- 3 in person Bible studies
- Tai Chi for new video
- Congregation meeting
- 6 choir rehearsals
- 1 Concert in our series
- 4 regular worship services
- 3 coffee hours
- 3 zoom Bible studies
- 1 contemporary choir rehearsal
- 2 evangelism meetings
- 1 property meeting
- 1 IT meeting
- 1 Grief Support Group

Other:

- 7 days vacation, including 2 Sundays, My next vacation is the weekend after Thanksgiving.
- Meeting and tour of Harbor House
- Meeting with TAFA re: renting space

Discretionary Fund Balance \$49

Reflections: It's stewardship season. See the sheet I made up to pass around. Simple. I propose putting several around on the Sundays in Oct or even beginning next Sunday and including it in the Oct newsletter. I never expect or demand any specific amount from anyone, but it really sends a good strong message if all the Council fills out a form. Can we get this, please? Also, as of now I do not have a person to be a parish nurse, but Linda Grynuik will see if someone at the hospital could help me coordinate a series of presentations here such as nutrition, med interactions, flu recommendations, sleep issues, etc. over the course of the year.

Council agreed to the form and gave Pastor several suggestions on additions to the form, ie: electronic giving, Suggestion to do it in a different color in the newsletter to catch everyone's eye, perhaps a place to drop it off, ushers to hand it out.

Pastor will be meeting with Gabrielle Dziedzic at the fall dinner to talk about how to move Puppettude forward.

Junior Youth Group, asked VBS parents, so far 3 responses, 2 yes, 1 no, to try to get this off the ground.

10 Congregations will be here the Tuesday before Thanksgiving for a service.

Will continue to use the 'new setting' until Advent, then move back to a more familiar one.

Treasurer's Report

M/S/P Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented, pending audit.

Expenses continue to be under what has been budgeted.

Pastor suggested that when we have concerts or other significant events, we should consider reaching out to local companies and businesses to request sponsorships or donations.

- Letters could be sent to companies in town, inviting them to become sponsors.
- Pamela and Diane will gather more information on how to best structure these requests.
- Example: When another church in the area had to rebuild their steeple, they sent letters to the wider community asking for donations. Even if people chose not to give, the letter itself helped raise awareness and provided good exposure about what was happening.

This could be an effective way to both generate financial support and strengthen community connections.

Use of Facilities:

Food Truck Proposal

- Location/Hours: Top parking lot, Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM.
- Setup: 12-foot trailer plus truck. No electricity required.
- Menu: Specialty sandwiches and hot dogs; makes his own bread.
- Insurance: He carries insurance.
- Agreement: Willing to share a portion of profits; percentage to be negotiated.

- Conflict: On Tuesdays, the Farmers Market begins set-up at 2:00 PM.
- Flexibility: He will be asked not to set up if the parking lot is needed (e.g., funerals, special events, etc.).
- Signs: Questions raised about whether signage will be allowed.
- Permits: Need to clarify if permits must be filed with the Town of Torrington.
- Seasonality: Questions about whether he plans to operate in the winter.
- Next Steps: Council is in agreement to allow. Diane will follow up with him to review conditions and answer questions.

TAFA (Torrington Area Families for Autism) Proposal

- Request: To rent classrooms across from the nursery.
- Schedule: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM, school year beginning late August.
- Enrollment: Fewer than 15 children.
- Facilities: May occasionally use the kitchen.
- Timing: Hoping to make the change by July 26th in preparation for the next school year.
- Insurance: They carry their own insurance.
- Questions to Clarify:
 - Will they follow the Torrington public school calendar?
 - Are the children currently homeschooled or enrolled in the public school system?
- Additional Info: Pastor noted that TAFA also runs a summer program, and they might be interested in starting earlier.
- Decision: Council was in agreement to proceed with negotiations, Diane will contact them and set up a meeting

Old Business:

Land Purchase Proposal – Update

- Meeting: Greg, Pamela, Pastor, and Diane met with Alan Borghsi regarding his intent to purchase church property.
- Plans:
 - He redesigned his building and redid measurements to clarify where construction would begin.
 - Proposal is for a two-story medical building.
 - Entrance and exit would be on Kennedy Drive.
 - Wetlands on the property would be adjusted but not a major area of concern.
- Property Line:
 - Diane placed two stakes:
 - The stake inside the garden marks the actual start of the property line.
 - The stake near the lower parking lot shows an approximate end point.

- Zoning: The land must be re-zoned from residential to commercial; this requirement will be stated in the “Intent to Sell.”
- Timing:
 - A congregational meeting will be held on **October 8, 2025** to determine if there is support to move forward.
 - If approved, permission will be granted to sign an “Intent to Sell.”
 - An “Intent to Sell” is not a binding sales contract—actual sale would likely take place around **July 2026**, contingent on conditions being met.
- Additional Notes:
 - Land across Kennedy Drive contains many wetlands.
 - Land across Kennedy Drive is zoned residential, not commercial.
- Conditions: The church will only sell if all conditions outlined are satisfied.

John Grunder – land was originally given to St. Francis Church, free, but too much ledge, they wanted to use it for a cemetery, 7/8 acres purchased by us for \$95,000.

Committee working relationships- agendas, people’s opinions, etc.

Website update- video by Dawn being shared with council to get their input.

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

Congregational meeting about Solar-Passed – meeting went well.

John Grunder brought up the Roof and Solar Proposal

- John stated that he believes the solar/roofing company’s proposal is a poor program, calling it “a ponzi scheme,” since the money from the solar is being used to pay for the roof. He does not feel it is a good deal.
- Without informing council or the property committee, John hired someone to assess the roof on the office area.
- John and Betty Grunder offered to pay for the roof **if his company is used**. His proposal: remove the rubber, add 1” of insulation for a smooth surface, and reapply 60ml rubber roofing.
- John noted there is no leaking in the secondary office. He questioned where the leak is, since the rug is torn up but no stains are visible on the walls or ceiling.
- If council accepts the Grunder’s proposal, John and Betty also offered to pay for the HVAC at the same time.
- John stated he and Betty would give \$60,000.00 toward the project, but this would mean losing the \$40,000.00 Federal grant.
- Diane questioned why part of the roof would be replaced by one company and the other part by a different company.

Council confirmed that we will proceed with the roofing/solar company proposal previously approved at the congregational meeting. However, we will also consider

the offer presented by John and Betty Grunder if it is found to meet the church's needs. Greg Weingart, chairperson of the Property Committee, will meet with John to review the details. If the proposal satisfies all requirements, Council will revisit the matter for further consideration.

Update for Oct 12th- Plans were discussed

New Business:

Cell tower interest- Property looked into it, Greg was not in favor of certain parts of it. Diane would like a representative from the cell tower company to come to council to present the proposal. It's an interesting offer, we need to look into it further, become more familiar with it. Diane will get more information to council to look over before the representative meets with council. Would be a Zoom meeting as he is in California.

Budget meeting date- deadline for budgets- due date 10/17/25, go back to all committees and get the budgets submitted.

Insurance audit- Due Sept 23rd, Diane met with Margaret, gave her the information. She's looking into it.

Budget meeting date: Dec. 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall, will be announced starting Nov. 16th, packet ready by Nov. 30th.

Committee Reports

Administration – Liaison: Diane Boscarino

Deceased members: Calvin Bensch, Renate Riese

Baptized: New Members:

Report:

I know Judy has been assigned the task of dealing with Frontier, but I want to add to this that it is also affecting the emergency line. Usually when an emergency call comes in, the person who gets it will be given a call back number with the message, but since the caller ID is not working, that does not happen. In some situations, the person leaves a call back number in their message, but sometimes they do not. If they do not, then there is no way to contact that person. This was discovered when Paula received a call and said she didn't get a call back number. This was not the first time I had heard this, so I put 2 and 2 together. So, this adds to the urgency of getting this system fixed.

Vision was just here to set up the fax but the 860-489-3788 line is not in operation. Theo set the fax machine up to work, but I guess we need to get the line turned back on? Not sure when it was turned off as the fax is not something we use in

the office. Barb uses it downstairs for medical forms that is why we tried to have it set up down there. Sound like some investigating will need to happen to see if we have been paying for this line the whole time with no service? If I had to take a guess, I would say the fax line probably was turned off in January, around the same time caller id went out. That was the last time Frontier “fixed” the phone system.

August 2025	Attendees	Last Year	Season
3	59	56	Pentecost 8
10	66	73	Pentecost 9
17	77	78	Pentecost 10
24	84	82	Pentecost 11
31	76	62	Pentecost 12

Altar Guild – Liaison: Beth Brower - No Report

Christian Education – Liaison: - No Report

Congregational Care – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Eucharistic Ministry – Liaison: Pamela Little

<i>Euchari stic Minister</i>	<i>Congrega tion Member Name</i>	<i>Visited</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Took Commu nion</i>	<i>Comments/Co ncerns</i>	<i>Reque st Pastor al Visit</i>
Bonnie Schaff	<i>Gloria Thibault</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>8/7, 8/21</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 Reporte d</i>				
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>No</i>			I had to cancel due to illness	
	<i>Ernie Marquard</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>8/26</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 – No Report

Fundraising – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Finance – Liaison: Val Vega – No Report

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report

Grants – Liaison: Pamela Little – No Report

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

There was no meeting in August, however Barbara was busy getting ready for the new school year. Teachers returned on 8/25 to set up their classrooms. All floors were waxed and students returned the week of 9/1.

Enrollment is going well. Most classrooms are close to capacity.

Next meeting is scheduled for 9/18

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

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

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Safety – Liaison: Bill Skibesky– No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Val Vega – No Report

Sharing Garden – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Social Concerns– Liaison: Karen Ness – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Beth Brower –

Constantly changing rules, teams can have not more than 4 people, and no children under 18 can help, all members have to sign some statement about not discriminate based on race, gender, sex, religion, and no longer allowed to have a prayer before the meal. Val will get more information.

Staff Support – Liaison: Judy Ludwig– No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

St. Paul’s W/ELCA – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report

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

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

Other Discussion

Closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Adjourn at 8:45 pm

Next meeting will be Oct. 11, 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, 9/8/25, 10/13/25, 11/10/25, 12/8/25